



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,777

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1998

(1RS0p) 45p



**Free Neil and Christine, the Tatton Two!** FRONT

FRONT

**How to spend, spend, spend a million** PAGE 9

**The dirty world of Mr Punch** MEDIA, PAGE 14

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW + HEALTH

## Private firms to get arrest powers

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to give private security firms the power to arrest people in a controversial move that has alarmed court officials.

The proposal would allow staff from firms like Group 4 and Securicor to arrest members of the public for failing to pay fines or breaching orders imposed by the courts. It is due to be announced today in the Queen's Speech setting out the Government's programme for the coming year.

The plan, designed to enable police officers to spend more time fighting crime, prompted fears last night that people

BY IAN BURRELL AND ANDREW GRICE

would resist arrest by private security guards. Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "Offenders who fall into these categories may be difficult and sometimes violent individuals. This is why powers of arrest should remain a role for the police. Untrained and unaccountable private security should not be used on these occasions."

The Association of Magistrates' Officers warned that the private firms often had a high turnover of staff who were usu-

ally low paid. It said responsibility for enforcement of fines and other court orders should remain in the public sector.

Rosie Eagleson, the association's general secretary, said: "This is work which is only appropriate to public servants who are fully accountable for their actions."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is backing the policy change because police forces are increasingly unwilling to devote resources to these responsibilities. Around £250m is at present owed to the Exchequer in uncollected fines.

Arrests could be made for

non-payment of fines or for breaches of any one of a dozen "community orders" issued by the courts, including probation, curfews, drug testing, and attendance centre orders. Under the proposals, private firms could be responsible for up to 60,000 arrests each year.

The plans will be included in Lord Irvine's Access to Justice Bill, which will reform the legal aid system and cut its costs.

Tony Blair has told the Cabinet that the new parliamentary session will be "a year of challenge and a year of reform". In the Commons today, he will highlight four key measures:

■ Tackling crime, through a new youth sentencing system and protection of witnesses; ■ Modernising health, with better scrutiny of doctors and the ending of GP fundholding; ■ A welfare reform Bill bringing in changes on pensions; disability and widows' benefits; ■ A shake-up of local authorities, with ministers getting greater powers to intervene, and the scrapping of compulsory competitive tendering and council tax capping.

The aim is to show that the Government is concentrating on "bread-and-butter issues" and addressing the everyday

priorities of the people. But William Hague, the Tory leader, will accuse Mr Blair of ignoring their needs by making reform of the House of Lords the centrepiece of the Queen's Speech. "He wants to create a House of Cronies," a Tory spokesman said yesterday.

Cabinet ministers revealed last night that the Bill to end the right of the 750 hereditary peers to speak and vote would be delayed in an attempt to prevent the Lords throwing the Government's entire programme into chaos. They said the measure might not be introduced in the Commons until

next March and therefore might not start its passage through the Lords until May. The aim is to stop the Tory-dominated hereditary peers and their allies "clogging up" the legislative machine as they try to wreck the Bill.

Ministers will try to rush through other measures before peers are given the opportunity to discuss the Lords reform Bill. But the move may encourage "diehard" peers to block the measure until the parliamentary session ends next October, forcing the Government to bring it back the following year.

Details of the controversial measure on private security firms were circulated to courts staff last month. Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Privatisation to low-paid staff is not the solution. The Government needs to fund the courts and the police to do the job properly... There could be major problems when people from the likes of Group 4 or Securicor try to arrest members of the public."

Queen's Speech plans for welfare reform, page 8  
Leading article, Review, page 3

## Warnings as ban on British beef is lifted

THE WORLDWIDE ban on exports of British beef was lifted yesterday, ending a 32-month long saga which has cost the meat industry and the taxpayer £4.6bn.

The move, agreed by European agriculture ministers in Brussels, was welcomed by the Prime Minister as "genuinely good news". It should allow the resumption of sales abroad next spring, as long as Britain passes an inspection by European experts.

However, there were warnings, including one from Nick Brown, the Agriculture Secretary, that British farmers face huge difficulties in rebuilding lost markets. Mr Blair agreed, adding: "Getting beef sales back to where they were will take time and effort."

Yesterday's meeting marked the culmination of British efforts to convince EU partners that the UK has done enough to guarantee the safety of its beef. Only Germany opposed the lifting of the ban, although France, Spain, Austria and Luxembourg abstained. The European Commission will need to rubber stamp the deal.

All sales of beef outside the UK were banned in March 1996 after Britain announced a possible link between "mad cow" disease in beef and its human equivalent, new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The plan approved yesterday will allow the UK to export deboned meat from animals born after 1 August 1996 and aged between six and 30 months. These could not have eaten contaminated foodstuffs.

Ministers have also received fresh scientific advice this week that the risk of BSE from beef on the bone is now "negligible". This will enable the ban on

BY STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

Phone steaks to be lifted, probably before Christmas.

However, Britain still faces several hurdles before it can start exporting meat again. In particular, EU inspectors will need to visit to ensure the terms of the agreement are being met.

Before that is done, the Government needs legislation to make compulsory a final cull of the offspring of cows with BSE to reduce fears that the disease may be transmitted from mother to calf. Of 4,758 cows identified as having been born to BSE-carrying cows, around 600 have already been slaughtered.

Yesterday, Mr Brown said that, for those reasons, he was still considering the date for the EU inspection, but he set a target of next spring.

Even then the prospects for farmers, excluded from their export markets which, in 1995 were worth around £500m, are poor. In the summer Northern Ireland won the right to export under a separate scheme. Sales amount to only 20-30 tonnes a week, less than 2 per cent of the pre-BSE ban figure.

This year, Britain has confirmed 1,799 new cases of BSE, by far the largest number in the EU. Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, added that the inspection of conditions in the UK "is necessary to show to the other European countries that everything works well".

However, Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, described yesterday's decision as a "Christmas present" for farmers.

Cost of the ban, page 3  
Leading article, Review, page 3

The BSE Inquiry

Please register at The BSE Inquiry reception desk

Edwina Currie, the former Tory health minister, leaving after giving evidence to the BSE inquiry yesterday, on the day the EU lifted its ban on British beef Reuters

## Murdoch declares that he is not a Euro-sceptic

RUPERT MURDOCH yesterday softened his opposition to Britain's membership of a European single currency when he declared that he was not a Euro-sceptic.

In what appeared to be a dramatic shift of opinion, Mr Murdoch said he had "always supported the idea of a European Union" and added that European-wide media could be more effective than a political union in bringing the people of Europe together.

It is as a result of his remarks, the Murdoch-owned Sun and The Times were to soften their

BY PETER THAL LARSEN AND COLIN BROWN

Euro-sceptic stance, it could remove one of the main obstacles to Tony Blair's robust lead on Britain's entry to the euro.

Mr Murdoch's comments coincided with the launch of a new vehicle to invest in pay-television on the Continent. The venture, in Italy, is his latest attempt to break into the increasingly important European media market.

In June, The Sun asked whether Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, was the most dan-

gerous man in Britain because of his plans to abolish the pound by signing up to European monetary union.

Mr Murdoch has been actively involved with anti-European movements in the UK. Earlier this year he wrote to Business for Sterling, a group of industrialists set up to campaign against EMU, pledging his support.

However, close observers of Mr Murdoch were surprised by the change of heart. "Murdoch has always worn his politics extremely lightly and never let it get in the way of

his business interests," one said.

Mr Murdoch's change of tone took Downing Street by surprise. Mr Blair's official spokesman showed the frustration in Downing Street by accusing The Sun and The Times of spreading scare stories about the euro.

The Prime Minister's spokesman welcomed the letter in yesterday's Financial Times by more than 100 business leaders supporting an early signal towards entry.

Murdoch in Italian pay-TV venture, page 4

## If it's Monday, it must be Athens, says Charles

PITY THE poor Royal Family. All those official visits, all those red carpet receptions, all those hands to shake. Everywhere starts to look the same after a while.

So much so, it's hard for the blue-blooded traveller to know where he or she actually is. One day it's Brunei, the next it's Fiji.

BY ANDREW BUNCUMBE

It might as well be Aylesbury or Altrincham, or even Abu Dhabi.

Yesterday for the Prince of Wales it was Athens, and what a pleasant change it made for the well-known critic of modern architecture. On a visit to the home of the ancient Acropolis

he even knew where he was.

"We both know all too well that after the last war many cities, not only in your country but also in mine, have been redeveloped so that sometimes it is impossible to know which country you are in - such is the internationalisation of our cities," the Prince told Dimitris

Arrapopoulos, the city mayor. "It is always a great pleasure to return to Athens and see something of this great city."

As Prince Charles toured the Acropolis, a few thousand miles away in Fiji, his brother Andrew was being given a reception likely to remind him of his visit for years to come.

After insisting on a relaxed walkabout to meet the people, the Duke of York was met by hordes of screaming teenage girls and young women - many of whom seemed to swoon after shaking his hand.

Back in Greece, Prince Charles was not having nearly so much fun. As icy winds

whipped off the Mediterranean, he had to content himself not with screaming hordes of amorous women but with a medallion presented by the mayor. The stiff upper lip barely quivered. "I really am very touched and honoured," he said, "to have been given this wonderful medal of Athens."

### INSIDE THIS SECTION

Robinson under fire  
Tories made fresh allegations against the Paymaster-General  
Home P2

Sick Yeltsin's guest  
The Russian leader was forced to meet China's President in hospital  
Foreign P13

Engineering merger  
Engineering firms Siebe and BTR unveiled plans for a £9.6m merger  
Business P19

Rally of Britain  
Scotland's Colin McRae crashed out of the rally  
Sport P27

### INSIDE THE REVIEW

David Aaronovitch  
Why we all need constructive opposition from William Hague  
Comment P3

Terence Blacker  
Binge drinking and the English way of life  
Comment P4

Lowly, loaded, lonely  
Men are frightened of Eastern Europe's new Bridget Joneses  
Features P8

Louise Bourgeois  
Tom Lubbock praises a great living sculptor  
Arts P11

Alternative therapy  
Professor Edward Ernst on the claims of massage  
Health P12

Some like it Scots  
Scotland's battle for its own BBC TV news  
Media P15



9 770951 946528  
TODAY'S TELEVISION  
PAGE 20

LETTERS 2, LEADERS & COMMENT 3-5, OBITUARIES 6-7, FEATURES 8-9, ARTS 10-11, HEALTH 12-13, MEDIA 14-15, LISTINGS 17-18, RADIO 19

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# An industry slaughtered and £4bn lost - the price of policy on the hoof

WHEN Stephen Dorrell announced 32 months ago that "mad cow" disease was, after all, a threat to human health, it marked the beginning of the end for Britain's lucrative market in beef exports.

After years of reassuring statements by a succession of Tory ministers, it was left to Mr Dorrell, then secretary of state for health, to deliver the killer blow to the beef industry with a statement on 20 March 1996. It said that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was the most likely cause of a new brain disorder in humans.

Seven days later, the European Commission banned the export of all bovine products from the UK, including embryos, semen and food additives. Overnight, Britain lost £500m a year in export revenue from beef alone but, worse still, the ban led to a crisis in consumer confidence at home.

BY STEVE CONNOR  
AND GLENDA COOPER

Rather than protecting human health, the export ban was a political decision, designed to boost consumer confidence abroad and to punish Britain for past mistakes, such as failing to inform Europe of the Dorrell announcement.

By March 1996, British beef could be considered the safest in the world. Britain already had the toughest anti-BSE measures in Europe and the epidemic had already peaked at 1,000 cases a week. It is now running at about 100 a week.

The export ban and subsequent mass slaughter were seen as irrelevant given that the disease was already dying out. Yet the day after the Dorrell announcement a number of local authorities banned beef and took it off school menus. Some butchers went bankrupt, the meat-processing business was devastated and farmers began to experience one of the biggest crises in post-war agriculture.

## BSE - HOW A SCARE BECAME A NIGHTMARE

20 March 1996: Scientific advisers to the Government say there is link between BSE and a new form of CJD. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, announces measures to eliminate BSE.  
21 March 1996: British beef is withdrawn from thousands of British schools by local authorities.  
27 March 1996: European Commission bans the export of British beef.  
3 April 1996: Cull of all animals over 30 months to stop them entering the human food chain.  
31 May 1996: Britain sends details of its eradication programme to the Commission.  
11 June 1996: Partial lifting of the ban on certain beef products, such as gelatin and semen.  
21 June 1996: European heads of government agree on the progressive removal of the export ban.  
5 May 1998: European Court of Justice rejects Britain's appeal against the export ban.  
July 1998: Northern Ireland exports beef again.  
23 November 1998: European Union governments finally lift the ban.



Over the past year, confidence has gradually been restored, although it is still lower than before the link was made between BSE and a new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). Now just over half of British households regularly buy beef, 10 per cent lower than before March 1996.

Sue Davis, senior policy researcher at the Consumers' Association, said that the beef crisis unleashed a wave of distrust in politicians, with only one in 10 people having complete faith in what they are officially told about food safety.

Once the Government had stated the link between BSE and CJD, its own measures to protect the public were also taken with a view of trying to regain its credentials with Brussels, and three million older cattle were ordered to be culled.

In June 1996, the former prime minister, John Major, signed the Florence agreement laying out the groundwork for overturning the export ban. All links in the beef-production chain, from farmer and slaughterhouse, to retailers and restaurants, were decimated.

had been devastating. "At least 50 per cent of exports was beef from dairy cows to the Middle East and the Third World. But because they were more than 30 months old they couldn't be exported at all," he said.

The Government had to spend millions of pounds supporting the middle-men caught up in the crisis. It gave nearly £80m to the slaughterhouses to clear the backlog of animals for which there was no market; the renderers received aid to help produce mountains of meat and bone meal which could only be burnt in power stations; and dairy farmers received compensation for losing the export market in veal calves.

Farmer's suffered the brunt of the emergency measures. Ian Gardner, of the National Farmers' Union, said the beef crisis was an "enormous shock". "Overnight they lost 28 per cent of their market. Up to a

third was knocked off the price of beef," he said. "And prices have still not recovered."

Things have not been much better for butchers. "It's been tough and getting tougher," said Graham Bidston, of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders. "Over the past two years an awful lot of people have lost their jobs."

Lorry drivers and restaurateurs were also badly hit. The Road Haulage Association (RHA) claimed hauliers were the "forgotten victims". At the height of the crisis livestock hauliers were losing in excess of £350,000 a week with total losses totalling more than £33m. Dozens of haulage firms linked to the livestock sector went bust with the loss of more than 400 jobs.

The total costs have been estimated at £4.6bn. In terms of long-term damage to confidence in a traditional industry, it is probably much, much more.

### THE FARMER



Harry Fleming, 39, with a young family to support from his Scottish Borders farm, believes the beef market has bottomed out and he intends to expand his herd. The 73 young cattle he took to St Boswells market last month fetched £22,339. Before the BSE crisis took hold, an almost identical number of animals yielded £35,442. "Lifting the ban will put a base under the market and hopefully people like McDonald's and Burger King will try and buy more beef in this country. But any recovery in the export market will take a long time."

### THE WHOLESALER



Jacques Van Vlymen, managing director of the meat wholesalers Slater and Cooke at Smithfield, London, said: "It was vital to lift the ban. A lot of factories have gone out of business and the knock-on effects have been widespread. At first, the prices of other meats went right up. Then those prices fell too. 'The last government had a pivotal role and took the wrong decision. They were biased.' 'The issue was also misreported, with the BBC adopting an almost vegetarian stance. They seem so aligned with animal rights that they always put the farmer in the wrong.'"

### THE BUTCHER



A butcher for 42 years, the beef scare posed a potential crisis for Robert Withecombe. "We had to work much harder for our money," said Mr Withecombe, 57, who owns two shops and a catering business in Barnstaple, Devon. "At first we were encouraging customers to eat other meats. Then as confidence returned the beef sales went back up, but we had to deal with other hidden costs - deboning all the meat and paying for the bones to be destroyed. All along we only sold locally produced British beef... the ban being lifted could mean pressure on supplies, which would lead to a price increase."

### THE CHEF



"We noticed the difference in restaurants straight away. We had to stop ordering beef immediately," said Peter Arrowsmith, 36, head chef at Euphorium in North London. "Customers were scared. They were not informed enough. 'Now things are getting a little better. I put entrecôte on the menu two weeks ago. I used Scottish beef and it sold really well.' 'The real problem for me in the kitchen is the ban on the beef on the bone. I can't do côte de boeuf and I can't even use bone marrow, which is an important part of several classic sauces. It will take years to get back to normal.'"

### THE CONSUMER



"I didn't really take too much notice of the scare," admitted Nicola Ehrenberg, 25, from Redditch, Worcestershire. "At first, when all the scare stories were around, I tried to stop eating beef but I missed it too much. Other meat just didn't have the edge. I think a lot of other meat-eaters were the same. If they liked beef they kept on eating it regardless of the scare. 'For me, beef was just too important a part of my diet to give up - I eat it twice a week and my favourite dish remains my mum's roast beef dinners.'"

## Why beef will still be an acquired taste in Europe

AFTER the BSE scare, beef for many Germans became forever tainted, whatever its origin. Germany has taken a harder line on British beef than its European neighbours. It was the only country to vote against ending the ban at yesterday's meeting of European Union farm ministers.

In the wake of the British government's announcement that BSE could be passed on to humans, Union flags were burnt and sales of all kinds of meat - whether British or German - plummeted.

Yesterday, Helga Kuhn, of the German Association of Consumer Organisations (AGV), predicted a repeat of those scenes: "German consumers will be worried and there will be a decrease in meat consumption, perhaps in the same di-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD,  
FRANCES KENNEDY  
AND KATHERINE BUTLER

mension as in 1996, when it was very severe."

Not everyone was so pessimistic. At McDonald's on the Ku'damm, Berlin's biggest shopping street, customers were unperturbed by yesterday's development. "I think the whole thing is exaggerated," said Hans-Peter Kahland, biting into his Big Mac.

Manuela Durr-Nelzig, 28, was also unconcerned. "I lived in London for a year, ate lots of beef and nothing happened to me."

The experience of farmers in Northern Ireland should stand as a warning to their English and Scottish counterparts. The ban on Northern Ireland beef was lifted in June but it took

until September for the first sales contract to be concluded. Now only 20 to 30 tonnes of beef is being exported each week, only about 2 per cent of the 1,000 tonnes a week which used to be exported before the crisis.

Phelim O'Neill, of the Northern Ireland Livestock and Meat Commission, said lucrative contracts in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy had been lost.

In Brussels, where agriculture ministers voted, UK officials were walking around with "Great Beef" stickers on their lapels. But the British BSE scare has seriously dented confidence in all beef and red meat, whatever its provenance.

Pierre Van Der Eycken, 30, a photographer said he would not choose British beef if something else was available. "The

image is tarnished." Rome restaurateurs were even more cautious. "It may be legal to sell it again, but there is still a sort of repulsion towards British beef. I don't sell it and I think there will be an attitude problem for another year at least," said Giorgio Cialone, of Trattoria San Teodoro.

In France, butchers said they thought the ban had been lifted prematurely. "It will cause problems especially with old people, who are still very suspicious of all beef," said one butcher in the Rue Faubourg St Honoré in Paris, who said his beef sales had only just returned to normal. "I used to sell British beef but I will keep to French meat, from sources I know, from now on. If I have British beef in the shop, people will stop buying my other beef."

## The selling of the British cow

BY RUTH WILLIAMS

LIFTING the export ban on British beef is one thing. Getting consumers across Europe to eat it is another. How, for example, do you say it is completely safe to eat beef without hinting at the possibility that it might have been potentially life threatening in the first place?

That was just one of the issues confronting several London advertising agencies briefed yesterday by The Independent to produce, in just a few hours, a campaign that would tempt the continent. Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper came up with two approaches. According to creative partner Mark Wnek, one ("We're still mad. Our beef isn't") attempts to diffuse the fears surrounding the product by dealing with them directly. This was the agency's choice.

The second ("For the perfect joint of beef, grill thoroughly for two years") is a more scholarly



Ad agency Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper tried humour

ly" pitch which would allow some scope for explaining the controls in place. But the common theme is humour. "The best route, route one, is to dismiss it all with humour; to diffuse the situation and accentuate the positive feelings about beef," said Mr Wnek. "If you try to be too sensible you will end up with something very technical and seri-

ous, which, as far as food is concerned, would leave a bad taste in the mouth." Murray Chick, planning director of Walsh Trott Chick Smith, believes it is best not to advertise at all. "You don't want to admit there was a problem in the first place," he said. "Beef should sneak back into Europe rather than have a spotlight shone on it. If a client

was to insist on a campaign, then the practical, sensible, grown up way would be to focus on selling on all beef and not just British. If you wanted to be braver still, then the only way to do it is with humour."

Mark Robinson, marketing director of J Walter Thompson, said he would be tempted to steer clear of the safety issue altogether. "British farming has a good heritage - modern equipment, rolling fields. I would play up the Britishness of the farming landscape, the fine countryside, the free range herds."

There are as yet no immediate plans for a high profile advertising campaign. "We do not have a mammoth marketing plan on the stocks waiting to go," explained spokesman for the Meat and Livestock Commission. "We didn't know when the ban would be lifted and in any case most people agree that a quiet approach is more effective than a mega ad campaign."

## DID 180 GRANDS' WORTH OF JEWELLERY BEND A STRAIGHT COP?

# THE BILL

TV FROM THE HEART

# Murdoch in Italian pay-TV venture

RUPERT MURDOCH yesterday signalled his determination to break into the continental European media market when he set up a company which will invest in a pay-television joint venture in Italy and help launch a television channel in France.

It represents his latest attempt to establish a presence in continental Europe, the most obvious blank space in a media empire which spans the United States, Britain, Australia and the Far East.

It also reflects the importance attached by him to digital television, the multi-channel distribution system recently launched in Britain and which is beginning to catch on in other European countries.

Although details of the ventures have yet to be worked out, they look set to give Mr Murdoch his first foothold in continental Europe after several failed attempts. "He has rather missed the boat in Europe but not through lack of trying," a City analyst said yesterday.

The launch of the company also marks the end of an uneasy truce between Canal Plus, the

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

French satellite television group, and Mr Murdoch's News Corporation, under which the two companies refrained from competing in each other's markets. The company, to be called News Corporation Europe, will be based in Milan and be run by Letizia Moratti, former head of the Italian state broadcasting company, RAI.

The company's first move will be to invest in a pay-television joint venture with Telecom Italia, the Italian telecom group. It also plans to set up a satellite television channel with TF1, the French television company, targeted at the 15-to-35-year-old age group. Ms Moratti said the Italian market was one of the most under-developed in Europe. Italians spend approximately \$900 in the United States and Britain.

An initial attempt to set up a pay-TV joint venture in Germany foundered on objections from the European Commission and squabbling between



Rupert Murdoch announces the formation of a company to probe media investments in Europe, which will be chaired by Letizia Moratti (right)

the venture's partners. Since then Mr Murdoch has unsuccessfully attempted to woo Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media mogul. Most recently

he and Mr Berlusconi's Mediaset group have been in negotiations about taking a stake in Kirch, the privately owned German company which is suffer-

ing a cash crisis. But yesterday Mr Murdoch said negotiations with Kirch had been proceeding "very slowly."

Setting up a new company also shows his hopes of using British Sky Broadcasting, in which he holds a 41-per-cent stake, as his vehicle for investing in continental Europe have

been rebuffed. "BSkyB and all its executives are totally concerned with the launch of digital television here and all that goes with that, so Britain re-

mains their number one priority," he said. Mr Murdoch's strategy in Italy is likely to follow a similar pattern to Britain, where BSkyB became the country's largest media group by buying up the rights to Premier League football and Hollywood films.

However, yesterday Mr Murdoch said the advent of digital television meant other programmes mattered too.

"All sport is important. There are a lot of football rights available in Italy and a lot of alternative paths to them. But with the benefits of digital television it's a different game. We will be opening many small niche channels."

Mr Murdoch ruled out making an attempt to buy another football club, despite BSkyB's controversial £623m bid to buy Manchester United, which is under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He also ruled out adding to his newspaper interests, which include *The Sun*, *The News of the World* and the *Times* titles. "This is basically electronic," he said.

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## Police patrol on water bikes

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

IT IS more Bangor than Baywatch. But in an effort to combat a growing number of "yob-related" injuries off the beaches, North Wales police are taking to the sea - on water bikes.

Following a series of injuries and fatalities involving water bikes in recent years, police have decided the only way they can control a small band of trouble-makers is to take to the waters. In an unprecedented move, a select team of three men and three women special constables have been trained to use a fleet of water bikes, provided by a manufacturer.

"This is a serious matter. Every year we have fatalities or serious injuries caused by a small number of people acting like yobs in the water with these bikes," said Chief Inspector Geraint Anwyl-Williams of North Wales Police.

"These officers have been trained to a high standard and they will be patrolling the waters around some of our known troublespots. We hope their presence will be enough to en-

courage people to use the machines more responsibly, but they will also be there to enforce the law." Water bikes are classified as "powered watercraft" rather than "vessels". As such, there are few restrictions on who can use them or how they should be used. There is nothing to prevent the machines, which can travel at speeds of up to 80mph, being driven by someone who has a blood-alcohol level above the legal driving limit.

The special squad, which will wear wet-suits with police logos, will keep in touch with local council beach wardens with waterproof radios. The bikes will be kitted out in police colours when the officers start their patrols in spring.

Ch Insp Anwyl-Williams was swift to dispel any notion that his officers would be enjoying a Baywatch lifestyle. He said: "Let me assure you there is nothing remotely glamorous about being in the sea off North Wales on a cold April morning."

### IN BRIEF

#### 'Explosion' in Internet shopping

A "MASSIVE" explosion in Internet shopping is on the way, the director of international trade at the London Chamber of Commerce predicts today. Peter Bishop will tell a business seminar in London that in the new millennium e-commerce will account for 5 per cent of worldwide sales - £20 trillion.

#### Men held over town explosions

TWO MEN arrested in connection with explosions in Bawtry, South Yorkshire, were last night still being questioned by police. The men, both aged 18, were arrested on Sunday by officers investigating two explosions in the market town in recent weeks. Three other men arrested were released on bail.

#### Robbers jailed for woman's death

TWO MEN who killed a schizophrenic woman and stole £3,000 three months after being freed from a young offenders' institution, were each sentenced at Norwich Crown Court to seven years. Wayne Hambling, 20, of Westleton, Suffolk, and Brian Haigh, 19, of Ipswich, admitted manslaughter of Barbara Pauley, 63, at her Westleton home.

#### Yardley bought by German group

THE FAMOUS brand name Yardley, the royal perfume maker, has been bought by Wella, the German cosmetics and haircare group, for an undisclosed sum. The 228-year-old company went into receivership in August. A Wella spokesman said yesterday: "We will take into account the best traditions of Yardley as a British company."

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# Quality of life index will test national happiness

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday proposed a "quality of life barometer" to measure 13 different every-day concerns of the population, from economic growth and jobs, to health, education and, in particular, the state of the environment.

The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that new "headline indicators", to be published annually, will complement the purely economic measurements of the UK's well-being that have been used in the past, and reflect such concerns as road traffic growth, housing, air and water quality and wildlife populations.

"We are used to judging the economy's performance on the basis of GDP, inflation and employment figures," Mr Prescott said, launching the initiative with four other ministers.

"I want these headline indicators over time to become just as useful and familiar, reported regularly on TV and radio and in the newspapers."

The quality of life barometer is the Government's way of indicating progress towards a principal aim of modern environmental policy and sustainable development. Thirteen sustainable development indicators are being proposed for annual publication, although the Government freely admits more could have been included, and indeed, the previous Conservative government proposed an initial list of 122. But the Government believes that a more limited set of indicators will allow people to see "the overall picture of whether our development is sustainable".

Notable absentees are what might be called "misery indicators", such as those for poverty, drug use or violent crime.

The 13 sectors are: Economic growth; social invest-



'Happiness indicators', such as land use, will be used to gauge the average Briton's quality of life

TCL

ment; employment; health; education and training; housing quality; climate change; air pollution; transport; water quality; wildlife; land use; waste.

They will show performance in the various sectors, such as, in health, the average expected years of healthy life; in housing, the numbers of homes judged unfit to inhabit; in education, the average educational qualifications of teenagers; and, in the wildlife sector, the rate of change of wild bird populations.

"We are committed to a new way of thinking, one which puts environmental, social and

economic concerns alongside each other at the heart of decision-making," Mr Prescott said. "Sustainable development links the standard of living and the quality of life, not just here in Britain, but right across the world."

Mr Prescott's deputy, the Environment Minister Michael Meacher, has been the driving force behind the initiative.

He said yesterday: "This is a measure not only of how the Government will be assessed - and I'm sure it will be - but of how we are performing and the way we need to go, to improve."

The previous Conservative

government had a short and unhappy experiment with something similar when for two years, in 1991 and 1992, the then environment secretary Michael Heseltine published a detailed annual environmental report. But after it began to be used to point out where the Government was falling back, rather than making progress, Mr Heseltine's successor, Michael Howard, abandoned it.

Mr Prescott was reminded of this yesterday and asked to give a pledge that the Government would not take the spotlight off the new indicators if they started to become a politi-

cal embarrassment. He replied: "They will be published. There's no point in saying, 'we haven't done well on this, so we're not going to publish it'. People want to be able to see and measure change - and so do we."

Three more Government ministers joined Messrs Prescott and Meacher to give the quality of life barometer their enthusiastic backing yesterday - Charles Clarke, from the Department of Employment, Tessa Jowell, from health, and Kim Howells from trade and industry. And it also received a warm

welcome from the New Economics Foundation, the sustainable development research charity which first suggested such a basket of alternative indicators in a report 10 years ago. "This is a landmark in taking a more rounded approach to the quality of life in the UK," said the foundation's spokesman, Sergio Lingayah.

But the welcome in some other quarters was more guarded. Ian Christie, of the left-wing think tank Demos, said that it would be very difficult for the public and professionals in these areas to work out how the indicators interacted with each other.

"My main disappointment is the Government has not experimented with using one of the main rivals to GDP, such as the index of sustainable economic welfare which was established around 10 years ago in the United States," he said. "This takes GDP and adds and subtracts a range of costed social and environmental factors, reflecting the way economic growth has certain costs. This index - even though GDP has been going up since 1950 - that since the late Seventies, there's been a decline in the quality of life. They move in different directions after 1978-79."

The idea should be to see a chain of consequences coming from a particular set of indicators, he said, but the danger was that the Government would be left with "a basket of interesting facts".

The Council for the Protection of Rural England complained the barometer contained no measure of either natural beauty or rural tranquillity. "The tranquillity and beauty of rural England are glaring omissions from the Government's welcome new indicators for measuring quality of life," said Tony Burton, the CPRE's assistant director.

## THE CHOSEN INDICATORS



**Economic growth:** The total output of the economy. GDP: Gross domestic product. It is the Government's preferred economic indicator. GDP indicates higher living standards, but not necessarily for everybody, and it may mean a more polluted world.

**Social Investment:** The indicator to be used is total investment in public assets, such as transport and hospitals. Such investment reached £10bn in 1972, dipped to £6bn in 1982 and was up to 14bn by 1992.

**Employment:** The indicator is people of working age who are in work. This reached a peak of 75 per cent in 1990, then fell to 70 per cent during the early-Nineties recession. By this year it has gone back up to 73 per cent.

**Health:** Expected years of healthy life - not the same thing as life expectancy - is the indicator here. A girl born today can expect to live to the age of 80, but only until the age of 62 as a fit and active person.

**Education and training:** The indicator is to be the proportion of people aged 19 with level two qualifications (five GCSEs at Grade C or above). This has been steadily improving - the current UK figure is 72 per cent.

**Housing quality:** Homes judged unfit to live, in is to be the indicator for this category. The proportion in England decreased from 8.8 per cent in 1986 to 7.2 per cent (about 1.5 million homes) in 1996.

**Climate change:** UK emissions of greenhouse gases, the industrial gases thought to be causing global warming, form the indicator. Emissions of carbon dioxide (the principal one) fell by 8 per cent from 1990 to 1997.

**Air pollution:** Days of air pollution is the indicator - the average number of days per recording site per year when air pollution was moderate or worse. At urban sites it fell from 62 days in 1993 to 40 in 1997.

**Transport:** The indicator will be traffic growth, which is moving upwards. Total motor vehicle traffic in 1997 was eight times that of 1950, and car traffic was 14 times higher.

**Water Quality:** The indicator is rivers of "good" or "fair" quality - meaning watercourses capable of supporting fish and providing drinking water. Currently nearly 95 per cent of UK river network.

**Wildlife:** Wild bird populations is to be the indicator. Some have dropped dramatically. Farmland birds such as the skylark, and woodland birds such as the song thrush, are down by more than half.

**Land use:** The Government's indicator is to be new homes built on "brownfield" sites (previously developed land). Its target is 60 per cent or better; the current figure in England is about 55 per cent.

**Waste:** The indicator comprises the amount of waste produced annually (about 145m tonnes), sent to tips (63 per cent) and recycled (31 per cent). Good news if the first two fall, the third rises.

## Conduct your own audit of pleasures

By JOHN WALSH

IN HIS novel *A Landing on the Sun*, Michael Frayn imagines the setting up of a government department to measure human happiness. One of the civil servants performs a pleasure audit on his own life. He discovers that the only period in which he knew he was genuinely happy was the seven minutes he spent playing the piano for his dancing family in a candlelit room during a power cut.

The Government's talk about "sustainable development" and "cleaner growth" slightly obscures a similar initiative: to identify the things

that make people more contented, more secure and more likely to feel well-disposed towards their political masters.

But quantifying pleasure or contentment is an activity fraught with peril. So *The Independent* offers some guidelines here. A range of activities that come under Mr Prescott's "headline indicators" have been awarded the following UPs, or Units of Pleasure.

**Climate change:** sunny morning 20; cold morning 3; windy

morning 5; rainy morning 0; cold but sunny morning 12; cold rainy and windy morning -15; cold rainy windy morning with dense fog, your car won't start, and you have to scrape frost off back windscreen with expiring credit card -1000. Summer heatwave in Britain 250; summer heatwave in Britain while you're in Düsseldorf at sewage convention -250; sniffing ozone 20; sniffing pollen -50; sniffing carbon monoxide -50; sniffing charming flower in park, plucking it and inserting in buttonhole 100; being pursued by irate parks of-

ficial with slavering lurcher and on-the-spot fine -50.

**Health:** having head cold -5; having pint of Night Nurse and four hot whiskeys 40; having medical check-up (private clinic) -6; having medical check-up (NHS) -250; attending sexually transmitted diseases clinic with camp and sarcastic orderly -2000; joining gymnasium 100; attending personal trainer 100; having sex with personal trainer 200; sacking personal trainer (chronic back pain) 300.

**Transport:** driving through English country lanes in May 400; driving through St Martin's Lane in May -100; driving very fast down M4 in Mercedes convertible with elbow stuck out window, glamorous companion by side and Springsteen's "Sherry Darling" playing at teeth-rattling volume on tape machine 800; taking a taxi 30; taking taxi with driver keen to share views on Millennium Dome funding -50.

**Wildlife:** bird singing in tree (Leicester Square) 1; bird singing in tree (Cotswold vil-

lage) 15; pigeon on hat (Trafalgar Square) 30; pigeon on hat (anywhere else) -10; robin on log 30; robin on log in snowy garden (December 1-25 only) 100; frozen chicken in Waitrose 10; vulture on road sign -10.

**Water Quality:** sighting of salmon in Thames 20; sighting of Dover sole & la bonne femme in Thames 5; sighting of dolphin in Thames 200; sighting of shark in Thames 300; sighting of shark and former home secretary in Thames 1,000; sighting of Iraqi navy in Thames -100.



# Blair flies to Belfast to end deadlock

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TONY BLAIR flies to Belfast tomorrow to devote 24 hours to breaking the deadlock over decommissioning IRA weapons which is holding up the Northern Ireland peace process.

The British Prime Minister will meet all the main party leaders in Stormont in a day of negotiations before travelling to Dublin for his historic address to the Irish Parliament to underline closer relations between London and the Republic.

In a separate move to bring an end to one of the long-running stand-offs in the Province, Mr Blair yesterday met the Orange Order in Downing Street to seek a breakthrough in the dispute over the banned Orange march in nationalist Drumcree. The Orangemen protested to the Prime Minister about the Parades Commission which banned their march. Last Friday they held a secret meeting with Church of Ireland primate, Archbishop Robin Eames and his Catholic counterpart Archbishop Sean Brady. The Garvaghy Road residents association, Portadown, called for talks with the Orangemen but there was little public sign of compromise.

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

own, called for talks with the Orangemen but there was little public sign of compromise.

Mr Blair will be holding tomorrow's talks with all the parties to the Good Friday agreement to find a way through the stand-off between Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and first minister in the new Northern Ireland assembly.

The Prime Minister was urged to intervene directly in the talks at a recent meeting in Downing Street with Mr Adams. Having taken soundings, he is now seeking to repeat the personal success he achieved in getting all sides to agree to the Good Friday deal.

Mr Trimble, who is refusing to set up an executive body with Mr Adams until arms have been surrendered by the IRA, denies playing for time. Having missed a deadline on 31 October, he now has until February next year to deliver the cross-border bodies which will

assum devolved powers in Ulster.

A Unionist spokesman said: "Mr Trimble has made it clear he wishes to reach agreement on all these matters by the end of November. He has delivered on his obligations, Sinn Féin has not."

The Prime Minister and Bertie Ahern, the Irish premier, have privately agreed that the momentum must be maintained or the talks risk being bogged down. But Downing Street dismissed reports that Mr Blair will use his speech in the Irish Parliament to announce plans for a new Anglo-Irish council. "It's news to us," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

With Prime Minister's questions cancelled for the Queen's Speech, the Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive in Dublin tomorrow evening, joining representatives of the Omagh community at the residence of Irish President, Mary McAleese.

It will be Mr Blair's second encounter with people directly affected by the 15 August bomb-

ing, which killed 29 people and injured 250 more.

President McAleese arrives in England tomorrow for a two-day visit to Merseyside. President McAleese will unveil a memorial to victims of the Irish famine at St Luke's Churchyard and is to be presented with an Honorary Fellowship from Liverpool John Moores University at the Anglican Cathedral. She returns to Dublin on Wednesday afternoon to greet Mr Blair and his wife Cherie, on their arrival.

RUC officers fired warning shots to extricate themselves from a confrontation with an angry crowd in the south Armagh republican town of Crossmaglen on Sunday night, police in Belfast said yesterday.

Police and troops were taken out of the area by helicopter following the clashes, which took place after local men left a bar on Sunday night.



Tony Blair shares a light-hearted moment with Orangemen at Downing Street yesterday

Fiona Hanson

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## Missing Scots' lawyer found flower-picking

A SCOTTISH lawyer who disappeared last year, leaving behind his wife, has been found working under a false name as a flower picker in Cornwall.

In a twist of fate Reggie Perrin would have been proud of Alistair Liddle swapped his life as a small town solicitor to join migrant workers who cut daffodils for a few pounds an hour.

Mr Liddle - or Robert Fox as he called himself - fled his home in Forres, Morayshire, as he was about to face an investigation into allegations of malpractice. He was only found toiling in the bulb fields near Penzance by accident when police checked his name during a murder inquiry.

They discovered that the man who was spending up to nine hours a day bent over millions of daffodils, gladioli, and pinks, had a colourful past. On 10 December last year, Mr Liddle, who was the sole partner in his legal firm, went missing en route to attend a meeting with the Law Society of Scotland, to answer questions about alleged discrepancies in his firm's books.

He later withdrew £5,000 from a bank account and made several calls from a mobile telephone, which were traced to

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Edinburgh, but the trail then went cold.

Following investigations by Law Society accountants, Mr Liddle's practice was closed and sold. His wife, Anne Marie, made an emotional appeal for him to get in contact before moving out of their bungalow to stay with her mother. The couple, who met 25 years ago, were described as inseparable.

A huge police search failed to find him. But earlier this month police in Cornwall investigating the stabbing of Lyn Bryant, 41, on 30 October, discovered that the flower-picking "Mr Fox" was in fact Mr Liddle, and that he had a £300 unpaid motoring fine.

Last Saturday Grampian police took him back to Scotland. A friend said: "He was looking fine, but his appearance had changed having lost four stones. He seemed quite happy."

Mr Liddle, however, did not stay in Scotland for long, and has failed to contact his wife.

A police spokesman said: "It was his wish that nothing be revealed as to where he had been and where he planned to go."

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Sir Simon Rattle, conducting the world's largest orchestra - nearly 4,000 young musicians and members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra - at the National Indoor Arena yesterday. It played for seven minutes and 40 seconds, and raised funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. *Tom Pilon*

# Thousands smuggled in US racket

A LONDON man is believed to be one of the ringleaders of a global immigrant-smuggling network which brought thousands of Indians, Pakistanis and Afghans to the United States. Navtej Paul Singh Sandhu, 40, said to be a resident of London, was arrested in Puerto Rico and is held in Dallas. Along with two other men, he is said to have organised the shipping of thousands of aliens to the US. The illegal immigrants - as many as 300 a month - were sought by Americans running low-cost businesses, such as fast-food restaurants, who needed cheap labour. Several different rings were said to have brought in as many as 12,000 people over three years. Operation Seek and Keep involved arrests in the US, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. The US attorney's office in Dallas charged 31 people last week with bringing illegal aliens into the country, money laundering and conspiracy.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington  
AND JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

The rings overlapped but also competed, said US judicial officials. They expected further arrests across America, including some of the franchisees of fast-food chains. The tip that led to the breaking of the smuggling operations occurred when a deal went wrong, the *New York Times* said yesterday. Five illegal im-

migrants were arrested in Miami en route to New Jersey, and the smugglers added their \$5,000 bail money on to the fee. The angry immigrants then contacted federal authorities. Many of those smuggled into the US were kept as virtual prisoners, the authorities said. According to the National Criminal Intelligence Service, thousands of illegal immigrants are smuggled into Britain by organised crime groups, such as the Russian mafia and Chinese triads. It says international, organised criminals are becoming increasingly involved in the smuggling of people, frequently from Turkey, China and the Indian sub-continent. Illegal immigrants pay up to £10,000 each for special "package deals" that include forged documents and the services of a lawyer to help them stay in this country. The smuggling networks are being targeted by MI6, MI5 and a new unit of police and immigration officers. The number of people caught illegally entering Britain has risen from 60 in 1991 to 700 in 1997, although only a small fraction of the immigrants are caught.

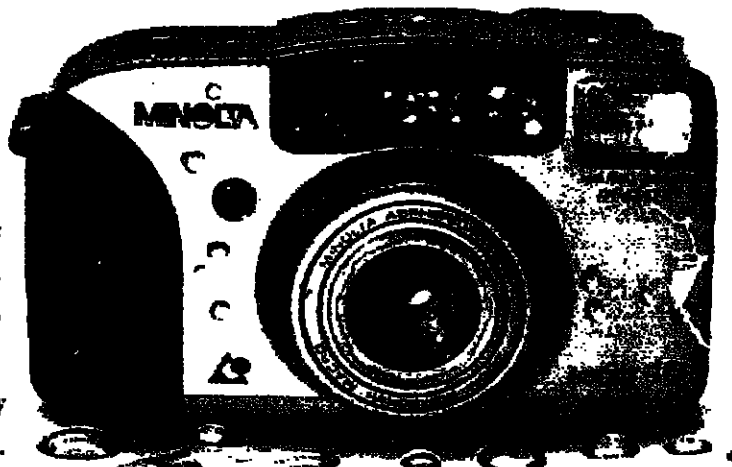
## Surgery left BA pilot 'genitally mutilated'

A HIGHLY regarded British Airways pilot whose "life was destroyed" after an operation to reverse a circumcision is suing an eminent surgeon for £3-m in the High Court. The alleged negligence by John Pryor, a past president of the European Association of General Surgeons, left father-of-three James Williams (with "genital mutilation...and a broken man physically and psychologically"). He lost his flying licence and his home and his marriage broke up soon afterwards, the court was told. Mr Williams, 42, had been a "dynamic personality who was highly successful in whatever he turned his hand to", said his counsel Nicholas Levisseur. He was highly respected within BA and destined to reach the highest command levels. But for Mr Williams "what should have been a simple op-

eration" at the age of 38 in 1994 led to ruin. Mr Levisseur said his earnings had been reduced from £86,000 a year to around £12,500. He said the effects on the former pilot "have been catastrophic...they have been devastating. His moods are volatile, his self-confidence has gone and his nerves are shot". The operation Mr Williams went for at the Lister Hospital in south west London was to rectify discomfort suffered during sexual intercourse, and to reverse an earlier circumcision. The operation took place on 10 December. Following a second operation on 21 December Mr Williams was discharged on the morning of Christmas Eve. Mr Levisseur told the court that Mr Pryor had not realised that his operation "had gone tragically wrong". Mr

Williams was sent home to his farm in North Devon by taxi and train, but it soon became obvious to him during the journey that he "needed to get to the hospital as soon as possible". The train guard - "the only hero of the case" - arranged for an ambulance to meet him at Exeter. He was taken to the North Devon Hospital in Barnstaple. A consultant surgeon there, told the pilot that he was "in the danger of losing his penis". Mr Williams was then moved to the specialist Derriford Hospital in Plymouth where doctors found his penis was "gangrenous". They made "heroic efforts to rebuild and recast his penis so that it is in something approaching a respectable state". John Pryor and the Lister Hospital, Chelsea, south west London denies negligence. The case continues.

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We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐  
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Issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. "Scottish Widows Returns on 1 July 1998 on a regular saving account of £50 a month from July 1988 to June 1998 inclusive. Returns to a year aged 24 for the 10 year cash option value of a similar plan to the Premier Savings Plan. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. With-profits security and surrender values cannot be guaranteed in advance. The information given here is based on Scottish Widows' understanding of current law and related Revenue practice - these may change in future."

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# Darling sets out pensions reform

THE GOVERNMENT is to introduce legislation to bring in "stakeholder pensions" for millions of people in the new session of Parliament starting today.

A Welfare Reform Bill to be included in the Queen's Speech will be wider than expected in an attempt to show the Government is still committed to radical changes to the social security system.

The Bill, to be unveiled by Alastair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security, will promise to create "a new framework of secure, flexible and value-for-money stakeholder pension schemes".

It will aim to provide second pensions for people facing poverty in retirement because they will have to rely on the basic state pension. Targets include the self-employed, people who change jobs several times during their working life and those who take "time out" to bring up their children.

However, the Bill will not be the Government's last word on pensions. A Green Paper next month will set out phase two of the "stakeholder pensions" plan, and tackle the sensitive issue of whether people without personal or occupational pensions should be forced to join a scheme.

Mr Darling is pressing for a compulsory system but Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is wary. He fears such a scheme would be seen as a backdoor tax hike and jeopardise Labour's drive to reassure Middle England it can be trusted on taxation.

Cabinet ministers believe Tony Blair's verdict on whether contributions should be compulsory will be crucial. It is holding talks with Mr Darling and Mr Brown as they finalise the Green Paper.

Compulsion would require

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

further legislation, which is unlikely to be added to the Bill announced today. It would probably be introduced in a year's time.

By pressing ahead with the first phase of its much-trumpeted pensions reform this year, Mr Darling hopes to kill speculation in the City that the Government has "gone soft" on stakeholder pensions following the resignation in July of Frank Field, the free-thinking former Minister for Welfare Reform.

The Bill will implement four potentially controversial changes to the social security system:

- Forcing all new claimants to attend interviews with a personal adviser, to prevent people spending "a life on benefit";
- A shake-up of disability benefits to encourage the disabled to work, with stricter tests for new claimants of incapacity benefit;
- Cuts on widows' benefits to save £500m, and
- "Pension splitting", under which the divorce courts could give wives the right to a share of their husband's pension, or vice versa.

Ministers are bracing themselves for opposition from Labour MPs, especially over the changes affecting widows and the disabled. Some rebel backbenchers could table amendments to the legislation.

Mr Field warned that the measure could provoke a rebellion like last year's revolt over cuts in benefits to single mothers. He said: "The Government will have to explain much more effectively than it has done up to now both the changes for disabled people and the number of women who will lose out under the proposals to reform widows' benefit."



The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott trying out Millennium Drivers, Virgin's new training programme, at Euston Station yesterday. John Woos

## Brown rejects common EU tax plan

THE CHANCELLOR, Gordon Brown, yesterday clashed with socialist allies including Germany's new finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, over controversial new moves to harmonise taxes across Europe.

Mr Brown threatened to veto any attempt to coordinate tax policy along the lines of a document prepared for socialist ministers which emerged yesterday.

However, a push to coordinate taxes was endorsed by Mr Lafontaine and his French coun-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

terpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

The row broke as the German finance minister also courted controversy by outlining ambitious plans to link pay rises across the continent to increases in productivity.

In sharp contrast to claims that Mr Brown had signed up to a united front on EU economic policy, the Chancellor categorically rejected further

tax harmonisation. "Britain will continue to have a veto over tax measures in Europe. We will not hesitate to use that. Tax decisions will be made in Britain, not Brussels," he said.

A more detailed rejection of the plans was made in a letter written by Ed Balls, Mr Brown's special adviser, which described the plans as "totally unacceptable".

But Britain appeared to be outgunned on the issue as Mr Lafontaine said tax harmonisation would be high on the

agenda when Germany takes over the presidency of the EU in January. "We will, during our presidency, push so that we have the first results," Mr Lafontaine said, pledging to eliminate "tax dumping".

Germany has long complained that Ireland, for example, taxes some corporate income at a 10 per cent rate.

Mr Strauss-Kahn, said some moves for greater tax coordination would be ready next summer.

On Sunday, Mr Brown en-

dorsed a socialist group document calling for greater coordination of economic policy, but did not specify tax harmonisation measures.

However, it emerged that a document produced for socialist ministers by Philippe Busquin, a Belgian socialist minister and chair of the European socialist group's working party on tax, went further. It argued that the burden of taxation has shifted from business to labour because of the mobility of capital.

The paper said "minimum corporate tax rates within the EU should be fixed", and added: "Direct tax coordination has to be on the agenda in order to avoid harmful tax competition."

"Diversity and competition among countries in the single market are only desirable if a framework of common rules for tax competition is established."

Formal proposals for tax harmonisation would have to be agreed unanimously by the 15 EU finance ministers.

## Paul Foot to run as mayor to rally support for Livingstone

THE LEFT-WING journalist Paul Foot is to run as an independent candidate for the mayor of London in protest at Labour plans to get Ken Livingstone from getting the job.

Mr Foot, who has privately attracted the support of some Labour MPs, announced yesterday that he would stand to give Mr Livingstone's supporters a viable alternative in any contest.

Although he is unlikely to win, Mr Foot could cause serious damage to Labour's chances by attracting disgruntled electors away from the party's official candidate and splitting the total Labour vote.

His decision to run follows outrage within the London Labour Party at plans to set up a candidates' vetting panel that critics claim is designed specifically to prevent the former GLC leader from standing.

Mr Livingstone, who has made clear he would not run as

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

an independent himself, has threatened to organise a write-in campaign to get on Labour's shortlist if he is blocked by Labour's Millbank headquarters.

Mr Foot, a senior editor at *Private Eye* magazine and nephew of former Labour leader, Michael Foot, is likely to be backed by a network of activists who successfully managed to get left-wing candidates on to the party's national executive committee this year.

The 61-year-old journalist said he would only stand if Labour stopped the Brent East MP from putting his name on any shortlist. "The main point I'm making is that it is an obvious scandal that the candidate wanted by Labour members is being stitched up by the Labour Party," he said.

"It would be a complete dis-



Paul Foot: Would stand up for London's poor

grace and outrage if they didn't let Ken stand. If that happens, then I am prepared to stand as a socialist candidate.

"I think I would be among the more credible candidates. I would use the power of the mayor's office to stand up for the poor of this city who have

had such a hard time."

A Foot mayoralty would oppose privatisation of the Tube, increase public ownership of the buses and halt private finance schemes for schools and hospitals, he added.

Leonora Lloyd, a leading member of the executive of the London Labour Party until last year, said: "If Ken is blocked, there would be an awful lot of resentment in the Labour Party and a lot would unofficially throw their weight behind Paul Foot. There would be such a bad reaction that Labour members are likely to vote for anyone other than the official candidate."

Labour Party sources said yesterday that Mr Foot's membership of the Socialist Workers Party would deter most Labour supporters. "If he's saying that most Ken supporters are so left-wing they would go for him then that proves our case that Ken is unsuitable," said one Millbank insider.

## Councils offered asylum incentive to beat machine

LOCAL AUTHORITIES are to be offered extra cash for housing asylum seekers in an attempt to ease bottlenecks in immigration "hot spots", the Government announced yesterday.

An additional £30m is being put into central funds to compensate councils which agree to accommodate people. The aim is to relieve the pressure on places such as Dover and London, where some local authorities have been pushed to breaking point by the strain of supporting growing numbers of people coming in from abroad.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "Asylum seekers often choose to join communities of similar ethnic origin and so head for London or remain close to port areas such as Dover. The strain on those councils most affected is unbearable and can no longer be sustained."

The scheme is a short-term

BY JO BUTLER

measure while the Government pushes through legislation for a major shake-up in the immigration system. In the longer term, the Government is planning to take central responsibility for supporting asylum seekers financially, and to ensure that immigrants are spread out around the country.

Under the new measures, local authorities will be able to claim £166 a week for each single adult housed, £230 for a family and £200-£400 a week for unaccompanied children.

The announcement was welcomed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of London Government. LGA chairman, Sir Jeremy Beecham, said: "We are confident councils throughout the country will respond positively to this initiative."

SLEAZE-FREE politics and an assembly for the people were pledged by Rhodri Morgan yesterday as he launched his campaign to become the first Welsh "prime minister".

The backbench Labour MP fired the first shots in what could be a bitter and hard-fought battle against Downing Street's preferred choice, Alun Michael, the Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr Morgan, currently clear favourite in the opinion polls, said his leadership bid would be based on breaking down barriers and keeping the assembly free of party machine politics and "jobs for the boys".

Mr Michael has strenuously denied suggestions that he has been "parachuted in" by 10 Downing Street to be successor to Ron Davies, who last month resigned from the Cabinet and the Welsh leadership after the

BY BRENDAN BERRY

incident on Clapham Common.

"The assembly belongs to the people, not to the Welsh establishment. Our assembly must be sleaze-free, right from day one," Mr Morgan told a Cardiff news conference.

"May 7 1999 is the day on which Wales stops being administered as a government department and starts being run as a country. That must mean few, if



# Jail for Angel in bike gang killings

A HELLS ANGEL who planned an attack on a rival motorcycle gang in a bitter supremacy battle which left two men dead was yesterday jailed for 15 years.

Gang members from across the country armed themselves with baseball bats, knives and axes before carrying out the attack on a London group. Ringleaders, who pointed out those to be attacked, co-ordinated the assault using microphone headsets.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey, Ronald Wait, a father-of-two, was jailed for 15 years for his part in organising the attack. Though the prosecution did not proceed with a murder charge against him, the judge told Wait he believed the men who died had been "ruthlessly executed".

The court heard that the attack was the result of an ongoing battle for supremacy between Britain's motorbike gangs. Wait, 44, known as "Gut", because of his 18-stone bulk, was vice-president of the Essex chapter of the Hells Angels.

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE

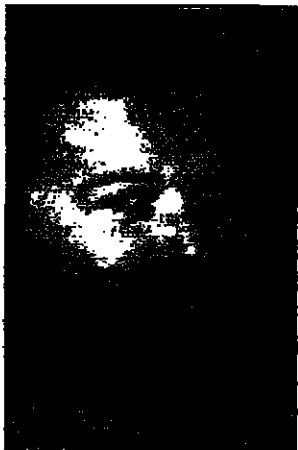
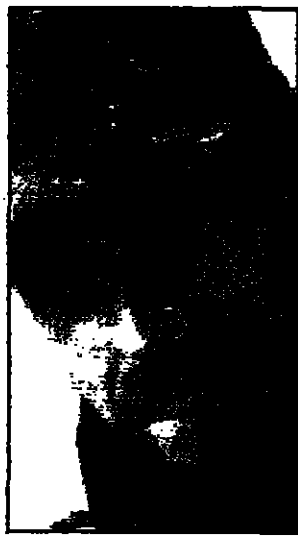
known as the Hatchet Crew. Its rivals, members of a motorbike gang based in London, were known as the Outcasts.

The attack, carried out in Battersea, south London, last January, took place during a concert attended by the Outcasts, Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, told the court.

In the "brutal, planned and premeditated" assault two men were killed and a third seriously injured. Malcolm St Clair, 35, was attacked by two gang members armed with an axe and a knife. He was stabbed eight times in his chest, abdomen, back and hand.

Wait was allegedly seen to be carrying an axe and was charged with Mr St Clair's murder but the prosecution did not proceed with the charge after the jury failed to reach a verdict after nearly four days' deliberations.

David Armstrong, 33, was beaten and stabbed by a group of rivals as he parked his motorbike. He was stabbed



David Armstrong (above left) and Malcolm St Clair (left) died after a 'brutal, planned and premeditated' assault by members of a gang led by Ronald Wait (top right main picture). Wait, known as 'Gut', was jailed for 15 years yesterday for his part in organising the attack. ENP

four times in his abdomen and left leg and his lungs were pierced.

Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Wait, from Dagenham, Essex: "You took an active part in conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm - a conspiracy which led to the death of two men. In truth they were executed in a manner that was as ruthless as it was arrogant."

Earlier, the prosecution had



offered no evidence against Raymond Woodward, who was accused of Mr Armstrong's murder, and Barry Hollingsworth, who was charged with both murders, before their Old Bailey trial was due to start.

Mr Pownall had told the judge: "The reason for the Crown's decision is the witnesses who give material evidence in respect of each have declined to come to court. It

would not be prudent in the circumstances for me to go into the reasons for it."

Police said yesterday that the investigation into the killings remained open, though they realised there was a problem with encouraging witnesses to come forward.

"We have always insisted we would not force them to come to court. Whether real or imagined, there was a percep-

tion of risk," said Detective Inspector Geoff Hyams.

Historically the relationship between the Hells Angels and Outcasts was reasonable but officers believe this changed after British Angels were warned by their American counterparts to combat the rise of rival motorcycle clubs.

After yesterday's verdict, the father of Mr Armstrong said he hoped that the violence

between the two groups was over. Bob Armstrong, from Belfast, said: "We would not like anyone from any organisation to go out and seek retribution on his behalf."

Mr Armstrong's girlfriend, Sue Grimoldby, said the former soldier had been "loving, extremely sociable, stubborn and determined". She added: "Now our son, Scott, will have to grow up without a father."

## Brain problem shown in scans

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS HAVE located the sites in the brain that appear to play a critical role in causing hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder, which affects an estimated one in 20 children.

Images from a type of brain scanner that can measure electrical activity have revealed children with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) show marked differences to the healthy controls.

Doctors once considered hyperactivity as a temporary behavioural problem, but recent research points to an underlying biological condition that can extend into adulthood.

Chandan Vaidya, who led the research team from Stanford University in California, found that the nerve cells of ADHD children were more active than normal in the brain's frontal lobe cortex and less active in the striatal region just below, which is known to control movements.

The results support the growing belief that ADHD is the result of a physical imbalance in brain development which manifests in early childhood as an inability to concentrate, fidgeting and impulsiveness. "The long-term consequences include lower educational outcomes and increased risk of drug abuse in adulthood," the researchers report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The researchers used a functional magnetic resonance scanner to study 10 boys with ADHD and six normal boys. When they were given Ritalin, the stimulant drug used to control ADHD, the differences between the groups were dramatic. It reduced the striatal activity of the normal boys but increased it in ADHD children - showing how Ritalin affects the brain in situ. The researchers suggest that scanners be used to make a more accurate diagnosis.

## Anti-racism adverts try new approach

THE COMMISSION for Racial Equality yesterday launched a fresh campaign to raise awareness of racial prejudice following its widely criticised recent series of posters. But this time its deliberately challenging billboard posters have been officially vetted to avoid causing public offence.

The government-funded

By VANESSA THORPE

watchdog's new advertisements use "positive" but unconventional images of black Britons. Although humorous in tone, the campaign again attempts to confound assumptions by carrying a sting in the tail.

One poster shows an Asian boy with the caption: "No one re-

spects me". In smaller print we learn that he is an Arsenal fan. The second poster shows the face of an Afro-Caribbean man next to the words: "Scared? You should be - he's a dentist."

The third poster is a portrait of an Indian woman accompanied by the slogan: "Improve your English. Perhaps this head teacher could help."

The posters will go up at 900 sites and the CRE believes they will "make a mockery of negative stereotypes of black and Asian people". Its chairman, Sir Herman Ouseley, said: "We do need to challenge attitudes. This is the only way to combat some of the worrying views that have come to light this year." Two months ago, the com-

mission was reprimanded over a series of advertisements that appeared to condone racist attitudes.

The posters were immediately followed up with replacement posters which asked the public why they had not objected. "What was worse?" ran the slogan. "This ad, or your failure to complain?"



One of the CRE's new 'positive' images posters

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DEPENDENT  
November 1998

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The study is the first major  
investigation of the link be  
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THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 24 November 1998

HOME NEWS/11

# Star defections cripple Royal Ballet



Tetsuya Kumakawa, the former Royal Ballet star who is poaching its dancers for his own company Laurie Lewis

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

**SINGLE-HANDEDLY** HE is wreaking huge damage on the Royal Ballet, which nurtured him and made him a star. And from next year he will lead a company of Royal Ballet defectors in London in competition with Britain's most famous dance troupe.

Tetsuya Kumakawa, glamorous, flashy, virtuoso dancer, has the Royal Ballet wondering which high-profile star will next resign after luring five of its leading male dancers.

Kumakawa himself left the Royal Ballet a few weeks ago. Now, insiders say, he has his brightest young female stars in his sights - wooing them with promises of piles of money to join his new company, backed by Japanese businessmen.

It also emerged yesterday that his company plans to dance in London in direct competition with the Royal Ballet. A Royal Opera House source said: "It will be disastrous to have this new, starry company dancing in London. The Royal



Young stars Sarah Wildor (left) and Belinda Hatley



The five are Stuart Cassidy, Garry Avis, Matthew Dibble, Michael Nunn and William Trevill. Insiders say the acclaimed young star Sarah Wildor has also been approached by Kumakawa, as has fellow dancer Belinda Hatley. The biggest female stars, Darcey Bussell, Sylvie Guillem and Viviana Durante, have not yet been asked to join.

Kumakawa, who came from Japan when he was 15, intrigued fans with his extra-curricular image as well as his dancing. He had a long relationship with his much-admired Royal Ballet co-star Durante and drove a red Ferrari with the numberplate U CUTY.

The defections and potential defections coincide with low morale at the Royal Ballet, despite excellent performances recently at the new Sadler's Wells theatre. Its dancers have been in dispute with the Royal Opera House over new contracts, which they have reluctantly signed. And the company's programme is being cut back.

Ballet will lose some of its leading women to them because there will be a shortage of leading men in the Royal Ballet for them to dance with."

The impresario Raymond Gubbay said: "Any promoter would be interested in mounting performances of the Kumakawa company now that it has this calibre of people... This does appear to have been appallingly badly handled by the Royal Ballet." The Royal Ballet's director, Sir Anthony Dowell, put out a terse statement deploring the attitude of his defector dancers. The five handed in their notice a few hours after Michael Kaiser, the new Royal Opera House executive director, gave his first press conference, saying the Royal Opera House produced some of the best ballet in the world. The dancers pushed a piece of paper announcing their decision into the hands of Sir Anthony just before going on stage on a visit to Belfast.

## THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



### Article 16

- (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

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# Yeltsin greets Jiang in hospital

FOR THE first time in his seven-year presidency, Boris Yeltsin was compelled by ill health yesterday to meet a foreign head of state in the Moscow hospital in which he has been an all-too-regular client.

Sick yet again - this time, aides said, with pneumonia - Mr Yeltsin met China's President, Jiang Zemin, for an encounter which, though potentially critical to Russia's wrecked economy, was clearly curtailed by his own enfeebled condition.

The Kremlin did its best to play down this latest health scare, which has arisen at a time when the political temperature has reached seething point in Russia over the death of Galina Starovoitova, the popular democratic parliamentarian whose funeral is expected to draw emotional crowds in St Petersburg later today.

A clip of a soundless film was shown on Russian television in which a reasonably animated Mr Yeltsin met his guest in a conversation punctuated with firm hand gestures. Later, news agencies said the President's temperature, which had been up to an alarming 38.9C (102F) at the weekend, was down to normal.

A spokesman suggested his condition was linked to his distress over the murder of Ms Starovoitova, who was his close adviser during his first fight for the presidency in 1991.

There was no avoiding the fact that his illness was another indication that as Russia's economy heads for a winter of

BY PHIL REEVES  
AND HELEN WOMACK  
in Moscow

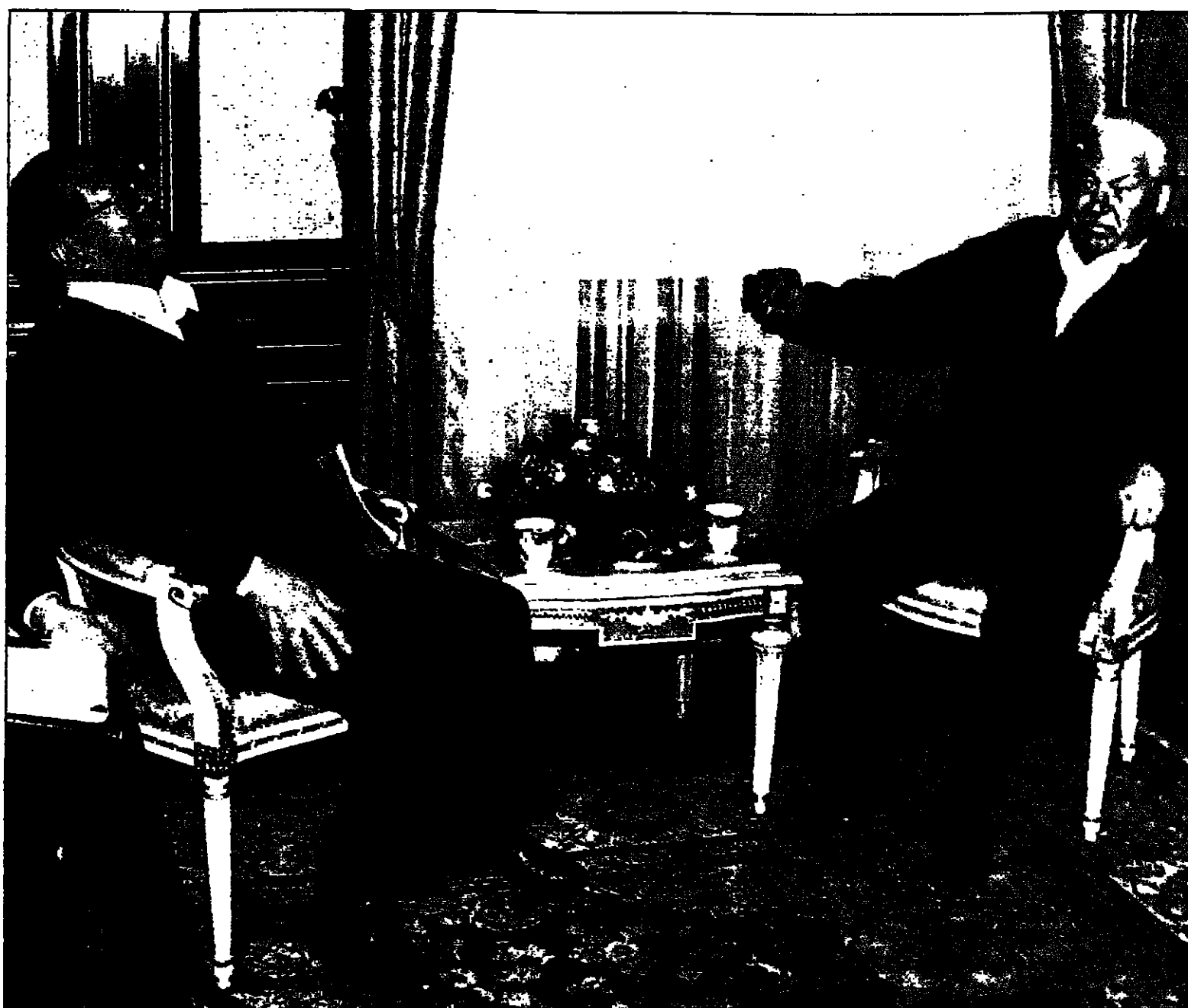
even deeper decline and discontent, the President is in no condition to rule day-to-day, and power has passed into the hands of his Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov. These days, even Kremlin spokesmen make little attempt to conceal this.

The contrast between the Kremlin incumbent and the President, whom many expect to succeed him, was starkly drawn when Mr Primakov appeared on national television with a firm promise to end "at any price" any symptoms that Russia was "on the path to fascism".

These remarks were intended to offset concerns about the rise of overt anti-Semitism, an issue which grabbed national attention after the murder of Ms Starovoitova. She had spoken out against parliament's recent failure to condemn public remarks by a rabidly anti-Jewish Communist, Albert Makashov, a retired general.

Yesterday there was further evidence of a widespread public willingness to tolerate anti-Semitism when voters in municipal elections in the vast south-west Krasnodar region overwhelmingly supported a far-left party backed by their governor, Nikolai Kondratenko.

The governor, who has a record for letting his fervent nationalism slide into racism, had berated liberals for con-



President Boris Yeltsin (right) chats with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, in the Central Clinical Hospital, Moscow, yesterday Reuters

demning the general's anti-Semitic comments.

The murder of Ms Starovoitova has restored the harsh and perilous lines of political division in Russia, pitting the previously divided democrats (the intelligentsia, market economist, and most of the media) against the "red-brown" (Communist and nationalist) forces who dominate the State Duma (lower house of parliament).

For once, the democrats - tainted by repeated failures in the Yeltsin years, including weak resistance to the Chechen war and several corruption

scandals - have reclaimed the high moral ground.

Although it scarcely matters whether Mr Yeltsin is in hospital or not - he has been detached and ineffectual for weeks - his latest illness was seized on by some of his opponents as further evidence that he should stand down. Their list of other reasons for his departure is lengthening by the day - a collapsed rouble, 40 million Russians below the poverty line out of 147 million, predicted food and medicine shortages, rising unemployment, withering foreign investment and an econ-

omy paralysed by corruption. At a meeting with law and order officials, however, Mr Primakov - who insists that he does not want to occupy the Kremlin despite growing support for his candidacy - made clear he still envisaged presidential elections being held according to schedule in 2000.

Although the West sees him as a free-market sceptic, with disturbingly patriarchal and interventionist tendencies, he has won support in the country, largely because he is an uncontroversial figure who does not offer the prospect of abrupt

and painful change. Most Russians have had enough of the ravages visited on them by Western economic remedies.

He also used the opportunity yesterday to rebut suggestions from the left that emergency measures were required after the killing of Ms Starovoitova. Liberals are worried that her death could be used as an excuse to clamp down on the press and human rights. There would be no dictatorship, said Mr Primakov. At the same time he called for tough action to "root out crime" after what he called "mind-boggling excesses"

- a clear reference to the parliamentarian's murder. To help ease the current mood of indignation, the police released a video of armed officers bursting into the haunts of suspected criminals, including drug addicts, looking for clues. The one man who might have some, Ruslan Linkov, Ms Starovoitova's aide who was injured alongside her in Friday's attack, regained consciousness yesterday. But it remains to be seen to what extent his memory is intact.

Leading article, Review, page 3

## Bonn's nuclear bunker for sale

BY TONY ROBERTSON

WHEN THE German government moves lock, stock and barrel from Bonn to Berlin next year, there is one item ministers will not be able to carry with them: 18 kilometres of nuclear bunker, hollowed 100 metres into a mountain in the Ahr valley, 20 miles south of Bonn.

The complex was developed from what before the First World War was a train tunnel, and then in the Second was used by the Nazis to assemble V-2 rockets.

When the Cuban missile crisis brought the world to the edge of nuclear catastrophe in 1962, Germany's leaders decided to take precautions against the world not being so lucky next time. So they secretly granted themselves £1bn to make a hole where they could while away the long hours until the Earth became habitable again.

Now, with fears of nuclear attack sinking back into the Cold War shadows of the dying century, and Nato no longer so anxious about losing Germany to the East, the vast 1,000-bedroom shaft is up for sale.

There have been 100 inquiries, and 16 offers so far - one prospective buyer wants to grow mushrooms in the complex, another thinks it would make a good wine cellar, and yet another wants to make it a very long luxury hotel that is also a monument to the Cold War.

There would have to be a few improvements on current facilities. There were no apparent recreation facilities for former Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his 3,000 or so underlings - just a reading room with a poster of a Caribbean sunset. Even the Chancellor's room itself resembled a monk's cell, with a tiny bed that could hardly have accommodated his 300lb frame - unless it was anticipated that he would not be eating many of his favourite cream cakes during his stay.

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## 8/ Elections threaten to topple Indian PM

BY PETER POPHAM  
in Delhi

THE INDIAN Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Congress party leader, Sonia Gandhi, ended campaigning yesterday for provincial elections trading accusations amid tight security.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party began its first extended spell in government in May with a bang - five underground nuclear explosions. If the BJP finishes with a whimper, tomorrow's regional elections may signal the beginning of the end.

Going to the polls will be the capital, Delhi, Mizoram in the far north-east, and Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Some 83 million will have the chance to vote.

All eyes will be on Delhi and Rajasthan, where the BJP has ruled for five and eight years respectively. If the party loses to Congress in either state, its days in control at the centre in Delhi may be numbered. If Congress wins, the deciding factor will be the BJP-led government's inability to control the price of basic commodities.



BJP supporters celebrate at a rally near Delhi in the final day of election campaigning

## Apocalyptic US cult flees to Israel

MEMBERS OF an apocalyptic cult from the United States who disappeared after their leader predicted the destruction of the city of Denver have made their way to Israel, according to Israeli police. Press reports suggest that the cult, Concerned Christians, might try to commit mass suicide at the end of the millennium.

The cult leader, Monte Kim Miller, a marketing manager from Colorado, was expected to lead his group either to Mexico or to Jerusalem. About 60 members of the cult have abandoned their homes since Mr Miller predicted that an earthquake would destroy Denver in October. When that failed to materialise, he disappeared and his telephone, which had acted as a switchboard for cult members in Colorado and across the United States, was switched to an answer machine.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem  
AND ANDREW GUMBEL  
in Los Angeles

Mr Miller, 44, claims to be able to speak in the voice of God and has made a series of threatening statements about the end of the world and dying in accordance with divine will. He prophesied that he would die in the streets of Jerusalem in December 1999 and be resurrected three days later.

At 6ft 5in, Mr Miller has been described as a charismatic figure capable of enrapturing people who come into his presence. After accumulating more than \$500,000 in debts, he sought bankruptcy protection from the courts a year ago but appears to have been bailed out by his supporters.

His message predicting a Denver earthquake was said to be a mixture of biblical history and numerology, laced with an underlying current of anti-US government sentiment.

A retired Denver police officer whose 16-year-old daughter left the sect three years ago

says armed men came to his house looking for her. She has since been dispatched to a military school out of state.

Jerusalem hoteliers hope the city will be filled with pilgrims wanting to see in the millennium. But some tour agents have cancelled because of recent suicide-bomb attacks in Jerusalem. In the past three years there have been six suicide bombings within a mile of The Independent's office, killing more than 70 people.

The Israeli authorities have set up a special committee to deal with messianic groups which might cause disturbances in the lead-up to the millennium. After each suicide bombing the army stations soldiers at bus stops and in the markets, but it is clearly impossible to stop those determined to kill themselves.

Police said they were not unduly concerned by the arrival of the Concerned Christians. Linda Menuhin, an Israeli police spokeswoman, asked: "This cult, how many worshippers do they have? Tens. It's really nothing."

## Fatah men go on prison fast

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS in Israeli jails have started a hunger strike in protest against Israel's failure to free them under the new peace deal.

"Fatah prisoners in Megiddo prison have today started an open-ended hunger strike. It will spread to other jails," one detainee, a member of the mainstream Palestinian Fatah organisation, has said. It is not known how many of the 3,000 Palestinian prisoners are taking part. The release of prisoners by Israel is one of the most important elements in the peace deal for Palestinians.

So far, Palestinian car thieves may be the clearest beneficiaries of the American-brokered peace agreement reached at Wye, Maryland, last month under which 750 Israeli-held Palestinians were to be freed.

Palestinian leaders were enraged to find that 150 of the first batch of 250 prisoners freed at the start this week were common criminals, many jailed for stealing cars in Israel for sale in Palestinian-controlled areas.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday that he was not releasing Palestinian security prisoners. "Do not expect us to release those who have killed our children," he said. Hisham Abdel Rizaq, the Palestinian official in charge of negotiating prisoners' releases, said he was particularly keen to win the freedom of 1,000 Palestinians who have been in prison since before the Oslo accords of 1993.

Mr Netanyahu arrives in Britain tomorrow for a brief visit to meet Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. He also expected to meet leaders of the Jewish community in the UK.

In Gaza, the Palestinians are to open their airport today, when an Egyptian plane is expected to land. More important for the million people living in Gaza would be the opening of "safe passage" to the West Bank, details of which are still being negotiated.

### IN BRIEF

#### Georgia rules sodomy legal

SODOMY WILL no longer be illegal in the US state of Georgia, following a ruling by the state's Supreme Court yesterday. The court dismissed a case against a man who had been found guilty of sodomising his niece two years ago. The decision sets Georgia at odds with US federal law.

#### Serial killer trial opens in Ukraine

A SELF-CONFESSED killer accused of murdering 52 people in one of the world's most brutal trails of slaughter went on trial in Ukraine. Anatoly Onuprienko, 39, was escorted into the crowded courtroom accompanied by about 15 policemen and locked in a metal cage.

#### Free heroin 'too expensive'

THE HAGUE pulled out of an experiment in which free heroin is given to addicts, saying it cannot afford to take part. Up to 200 addicts qualified for the experiment, which was scheduled to begin next July. The programme has already started in Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

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PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

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Mr Netanyahu arrives in  
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pects to meet leaders of the  
Jewish community in the UK.  
In Gaza, the Palestinian  
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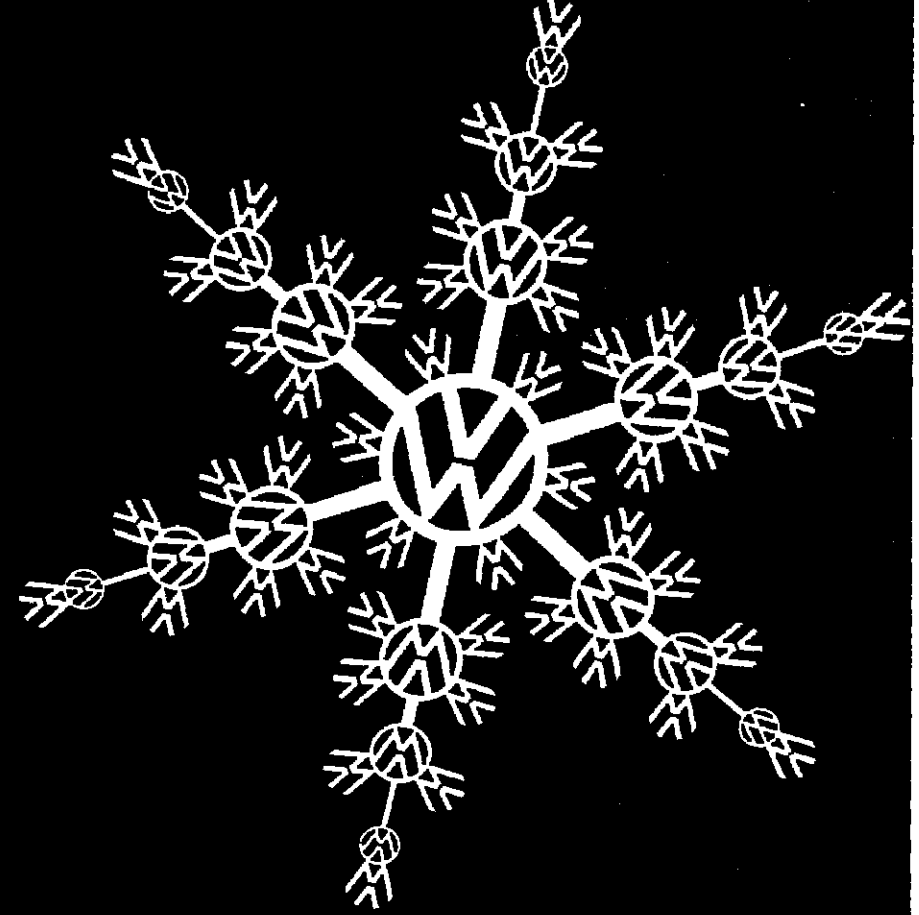
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assassination by  
Grenade  
attack at  
religious  
festival

BAHRAIN TV reported  
that Saddam Hussein  
narrowly escaped  
assassination attempt in  
southern Iraqi city on  
Saddam Ibrahim. Pres-  
ident's deputy on the  
Iraqi Command Center  
attending a religious  
festival in Kerbala, a  
holy city.  
Several bodyguards  
assassins were  
assassins at Mr Ibrahim.  
He got out of his car  
going to the television  
report was not wounded.  
The attack was the  
reported attempt on a  
Iraqi official since Decem-  
ber 1996, when gunmen  
killed President Saddam  
eldest son, Uday Hussein.  
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trators", the television  
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# 'Mercy killer' puts man to death on TV

AMERICA'S LEGAL establishment was yesterday considering the latest challenge from Dr Jack Kevorkian, the militant campaigner for euthanasia, who was shown on television administering what he said was a fatal injection to a terminally ill patient.

The short film, which was aired on the CBS Sunday evening documentary programme 60 Minutes, could be brought as evidence to a murder charge, which is exactly what Dr Kevorkian would like.

The film was almost surreal in its calm. It showed Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old sufferer from Lou Gehrig's disease, repeatedly consenting to end his life. Barely able to move or speak, Mr Youk gave the less than a doubt about his intentions. He twice signed a letter instructing Dr Kevorkian to end his life, and after the doctor had suggested a week's delay to make up his mind absolutely - he had his brother call back only two days later to hasten his end.

The film then showed Dr Kevorkian administer first a strong sedative, then a muscle relaxant, and finally - with Mr Youk apparently unconscious and his head lolled backwards - a heart-stopping injection of potassium.

While the film was visually unsensational, the commentary was ghoulish, with the 60 Minutes presenter, Mike Wallace, quizzing the doctor at each stage: "Is he dead now?" and the doctor replying: "He's dying now."

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington



Kevorkian: Administered fatal dose on '60 Minutes'

offence, if there was any, they agreed, was to have left him to suffer indefinitely.

"I was so grateful to know that someone would relieve him of his suffering," said Mr Youk's wife, Melody. "I don't consider it murder. I consider it the way things should be."

For years, the self-styled "doctor of death" has argued that Americans should have the right to end their lives. He says he has helped more than 130 people to die. This time, though, in a calculated attempt to have the arguments tested in court, marked the first time that he has admitted - and been shown - administering the fatal dose directly.

He has been prosecuted three times for assisting individuals to commit suicide, but was acquitted each time as courts finched from rulings that would either uphold or outlaw the "right to die".

As the baby-boom generation ages, public interest in euthanasia has increased. Oregon last year became the first state to allow what were described as "doctor-assisted suicides" after a referendum. The referendum results were upheld by the US Supreme Court which left the euthanasia debate a matter for individual states.

The issue of euthanasia is complicated in the US by the absence of any National Health Service. Some fear that terminally ill patients, or the very old, could come under pressure to end their lives prematurely to save families the cost of care.



Bill Clinton walks past a Yi Dynasty honour guard at the K-16 Air Base in Seoul yesterday. The US President left South Korea for the final leg of an Asian trip, and will spend today in Guam

## Woman sued for 'stealing' sperm

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

IN THE latest example of America's gender wars, a man in Albuquerque, in the south-west state of New Mexico, is suing his former girlfriend for becoming pregnant without his agreement.

Peter Wallis has accused Kellie Smith, the mother of his one-year-old daughter, of fraud and breach of contract for "intentionally acquiring and mis-using" his sperm.

He claims that Ms Smith had promised to take the Pill, but deliberately stopped in order to have a baby - making him a father without his knowledge or consent. Her decision, he says, will expose him to expense to support a child he did not want.

Ms Smith's lawyer argues she could not have "stolen" Mr Wallis' sperm, because he "surrendered any right of possession... when he transferred it... during voluntary sexual intercourse". The sperm was, in fact, "a gift".

Their versions of exactly what happened diverge. Mr Wallis says she agreed to take the Pill and that amounted to a contract. She says she did take the Pill, but because she wanted to, not because they had an agreement. She says she was shocked to find she was pregnant but wanted to keep the child.

He says that when she told him she was pregnant he asked her to marry him, and then to have an abortion. She refused on both counts, and he threw her out of the flat they shared.

She moved back with her parents, where she and her daughter now live, and says she did not want to marry Mr Wallis because "I realised that he didn't love me".

Ms Smith's lawyer, Mary Han, says Mr Wallis' case is baseless. "If he was so adamant, why didn't he use a condom? This is about a man who just does not want to accept his sexual responsibility. Talk about a whiner." She said if his argument prevails, there would be a "flood of litigation" if fathers could evade their responsibilities by blaming the mothers for failing to use birth control.

Some men's groups side with Mr Wallis, arguing that as the law stands the women have all the options. The woman, for instance, can decide whether to have an abortion and the man has no say.

The counter-argument from women's groups, is that it is women who have the babies.

Both parties to the lawsuit insist that money is not their prime motivation.

## Unabomber brother sells story US attacks Kurd chief

THE BROTHER of Theodore Kaczynski, known as the Unabomber, is negotiating to sell the book and film rights to his story to help defray legal expenses.

In an interview with his local paper, the Daily Gazette of Schenectady, in upstate New York, David Kaczynski, said his tax position meant that he would have to find more money.

Mr Kaczynski, a social worker, informed the police of his suspicions about his brother, leading to his arrest after a 20-year manhunt.

Theodore Kaczynski, a gifted mathematician and former university lecturer, was con-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

victed earlier this year on three counts of murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole after a plea bargain meant that he escaped the death penalty.

His trial became a legal tussle between himself, his lawyers and the court, after his legal team recommended that he plead insanity.

The Unabomber had terrorised and mystified America with a letter-bomb campaign directed mostly against university staff. His brother's suspicions that Theodore could be the

culprit came after US newspapers printed a lengthy anti-government "manifesto" from the Unabomber.

Similarities between that document and his brother's letters led David Kaczynski to track down his brother and tip off the police to the hut where he lived in the wilds of Montana.

David Kaczynski received the \$1m (£620,000) reward promised by the FBI for bringing the Unabomber to justice, but he learnt recently that the money would be subject to tax. The remaining \$700,000 or so will reportedly be insufficient to pay all the costs associated with his brother's legal de-

fence and legal advice for himself and his family.

The judiciary committee of the House of Representatives, which is considering the impeachment of President Bill Clinton over his conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair, heard testimony in closed session yesterday from the lawyer acting for Kathleen Willey, the White House volunteer who accused Mr Clinton of groping her.

The committee has extended its inquiry to consider accusations that the White House may have intimidated or induced witnesses to keep silent about sexual misconduct by the President.

THE UNITED States yesterday said it was working with Turkey, Italy and Germany to defuse tension among them and ensure that the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan is brought to justice.

James Rubin, a spokesman for the State Department, acknowledged that Mr Ocalan would probably not be extradited to Turkey, as Washington had initially urged.

But the US and its allies were reviewing a "full range of options" to bring Mr Ocalan to justice.

Yesterday Turkey decided to pull the plug on two Italian state-run cable television chan-

nels, underlining its anger at Rome's refusal to extradite Mr Ocalan, head of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Rather than fault Italy, Mr Rubin praised Rome for "accepting international responsibility" to arrest him. But he also said "the PKK is a terrorist organisation and Ocalan must be held accountable for his role in the PKK's terrorist activities."

Yesterday Turkey's main legal Kurdish party said thousands of its members had been detained in police raids since the arrest of Mr Ocalan.

Italy's reluctance to extradite the PKK leader has en-

tered Turks. The government holds the PKK responsible for more than 29,000 deaths in a 14-year campaign for self-rule in south-eastern Turkey.

Zeynettin Onay, a board member of the People's Democracy Party (Hadeep), said: "A total of 3,064 of our members have been detained... in the past 10 days." Hadeep advocates a peaceful solution to the conflict which has ravaged the south-east.

On Saturday a retired teacher and Hadeep member died after an attack by extremists who seized him from police custody in the western town of Izmit. - Reuters

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# City built on sands of time

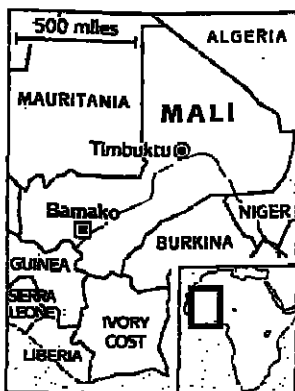
COMFORTABLE IN a flowing indigo *boubou*, Ould El Hadj Salem conducts a tour around a display of some of the world's most important Arabic texts.

Among the leather-bound volumes set in glass-topped cases is a treatise on astronomy from the 16th century and a book of Islamic law from 1204. Each volume looks so fragile it seems that a carelessly exhaled breath may shatter the brittle pages.

For the past 20 years, the Ahmed Baba Centre for Historical Research in Timbuktu has been collecting and cataloguing ancient texts from across the Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa. It has a library of more than 15,000 volumes, many of which are priceless.

"They are all very important texts," explains Ould El Hadj, a researcher, archivist and historian. "They come from families in and around Timbuktu who have held them down the centuries. Researchers at the centre find out what are available and how much the families want. Then we decide which we can afford to buy."

Lack of funds is a constant



problem for the centre. It also has to deal with businessmen from the Middle East coming to town to try and buy texts at much higher prices.

Yet Timbuktu remains a town of scholarship. In the 16th century, some 25,000 students attended a university at the mud-built Sankore mosque. The centre is still a school of Koranic studies.

In the Middle Ages, Timbuktu became famous as one of the entrepôts through which came the West African

## STREET LIFE TIMBUKTU

gold on which European finance relied. White explorers reached the town only in the 19th century. Timbuktu's obvious decline came as a bitter disappointment.

Today it is only a provincial town in the desperately poor former French colony of Mali. Camel caravans - a hundred animals at a time - still travel to Timbuktu, carrying salt slabs from the mines at Toudeni, 500 miles to the north. Old women still sit in the market square to sell the salt that once was literally worth its weight in gold.

But the townspeople rely increasingly on tourism. Alongside the piles of salt, the local women now sell trinkets and charms for the tourists who fly in for a few dusty hours, many of them simply to say they have been to a town whose name will forever be associated with remoteness.

"Tourism is very important to us but there is not much investment in the town," said Ould El Hadj. "There are only

two hotels here. We need more investment. But the biggest change is our place in history. Once we were like a port on the edge of a sea - the Sahara - with camels as ships. Now things tend to pass us by. The new roads do not come to Timbuktu. Only one of the town's roads is paved and that is the route to the airport. The rest of the medieval streets have been taken over by the elements of the desert. Because of the sand, even a short walk can take an hour."

Despite this, Ould El Hadj, 58, the father of 10 children, thinks life is better than it was 25 years ago. "Now we have a governor and some organisation. Things used to be chaotic. Life is better for people. There is more to eat now."

He remembers the crushing drought of 1973 when, for the first time in centuries, starving desert nomads were forced into the town. He remembers the time in 1995 when those same nomads attacked the town - including the research centre - during a rebellion. "But the town survived. It will continue to," he says.

ANDREW BUNCOMBE



Child members of Kamajors, who grow up more familiar with an AK47 than a classroom



Adam Roberts

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## Teenage warriors fight to last boy

MOHAMMED, aged 16, sits in the shade with his friends and waits for school registration.

The previous night he spent on the road near the town of Bo in eastern Sierra Leone, and now, subdued by the heat, he leans on his Kalashnikov.

Putting his knuckles to mine in greeting, he isn't self-conscious about his clothes: wool tassels and colourful string are wrapped on to his head; one of his friends has the skin of a bush cat hung around his neck. A third, also wearing tassels, has a broken mirror tied into his hair. These, they explain, protect them from bullets.

These schoolmates are soldiers. "I have killed some people, I shot them," explains one. "I killed two rebels and it felt good. I was happy to kill them because they are our enemies."

He has fought for two years as a member of his village's defence force, the Kamajors, a traditional hunting society which now keeps order in this area.

There has been war in Sierra Leone since 1991, when the civil fighting spilled over the border from Liberia. The rebels, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), claimed to be fighting against the corruption of successive governments, but when they seized power in May 1997 they faced massive public opposition.

More than any other group, the Kamajors organised civil and military resistance to the RUF and made the intervention by Nigerian "peace-making" troops possible in March this year.

The country's deputy defence minister, Chief Hinga Norman, claims the "war is over, there's just some fighting to be done". But the war is not yet over, and with the dry season beginning, United Nations observers expect more fighting to occur: the rebels will be able to move more freely and will be out to pillage harvests. One central tactic of the rebels is to recruit by abducting children and forcing them to fight, carry ammunition and looted goods. Around 3,000 children are said to be living in the bush with the RUF, which is said to have up to 8,000 guerrillas.

A similar number of children fight with the civil defence forces and guard checkpoints. One former civil defence soldier says that "at the battlefield it is children fighting children".

As a generation grows up more familiar with the workings of an AK47 or G3 assault rifle than with a classroom, many fear that the problems in Sierra Leone are set to last for many years. "A generation of children is stunted and traumatised," says Anthony Bloomberg, a representative

of Unicef, the UN children's organisation, pointing to poor nutrition and education levels which already existed before the war. Now there is the added challenge of trying to reintegrate former child soldiers back into civilian life: sometimes back into villages which they are known to have attacked.

In schools near Bo former child fighters are being taught about childhood again, and are given carpentry, craft and household skills as well as foster families to ease their way to a new way of life. But they have to come a long way.

Many children in their mid-teens have been soldiers for half their lives: they have committed atrocities, killed, and suffered the deaths of friends and relatives.

One former administrator with the rebels was abducted with 28 of her family. "Only nine of us lived. The others died of illness or hunger while we were in the bush," she said. Children as young as eight months old have had limbs amputated, as a "message for President (Ahmad Tejan) Kabbah" - the elected President who was restored to power by the intervention force last spring.

The rebels appear to have no goals or ideology, other than to control the diamond-rich areas in the north and east of the country. There is talk of re-opening negotiations: trying to find a way to persuade guerrilla fighters to leave the bush. But since the execution last month of 24 captured military leaders who were involved in the 1997 coup, the rebels in the bush may be less keen to talk.

The mess likely to continue, say aid workers and observers on the ground. And children will continue to be recruited "because we are braver than elder people", as one explains. "When we go to battle, the adults think of their wives and children. We don't think of them: we accept any order. I know I might be killed, but I feel secure."

He plays with the wool tassels in his hair. A 10-year-old friend then tells of the broken mirror: "If I point this at a rebel you will never see him again." Just the sort of thing 10-year-olds say all over the world, but this one carries an AK47.





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# BUSINESS

Merger Monday: Shares surge in Europe and US on wave of takeovers

## Siebe and BTR unveil plans for £9.4bn merger



from left: Allen Yurko, chief executive designate of BTR Siebe; Lord Marshall, chairman; and Ian Strachan, the deputy chairman unveiling the deal at Warburg Dillon Read in London yesterday

### BRIEFING

#### Lucas in £235m disposal

LucasVarity, the engineering and automotive components group, has signed an agreement to sell its heavy braking systems division for £235m. The buyer is Meritor Automotive Inc of the United States. The division recorded sales of £175m last year. Based in Dayton, Ohio, it employs 1,800 workers and has net assets of £65m. LucasVarity announced its intention to sell the business in August.

#### OFT to investigate computers

The Office of Fair Trading yesterday said it was considering an investigation into the personal computer market following the intervention of Peter Mandelson (left) over UK PC prices. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry wrote to the OFT on Friday about the issue but has denied "leaning" on the competition watchdog. DIXONS said yesterday that it written to Mr Mandelson and to the OFT "welcoming any OFT investigation into PC pricing." It added that any study should also include an assessment of the role of the microprocessor and other component suppliers such as Intel as well as the impact of VAT on computer prices.

#### BICC pulls out of optical fibres

BICC, the ailing cables-to-construction group, yesterday pulled out of the troubled optical fibres market with the £58m sale to the US giant Corning of its stake in their fibre-making joint venture. The American company will pay £26m in cash for the 50 per cent in Optical Fibres it does not own and take up the company's £28m debt. The business, has suffered as demand for fibres used in telecommunications cables slumped due to the Asian crisis and European economic woes. It posted a profit of £5.1m on sales of £36m in the first half of 1998.

#### Receivers in at Tile City

Receivers have been called in at Tile City, Britain's second largest tile retailer, in a further sign of the pressure in the building materials sector. The Stockport, Cheshire-based company, which was the subject of a management buyin last year, had been trying to find a buyer for several weeks, but receivers from Deloitte & Touche, the accountancy firm, were appointed at the weekend after it became clear that debt levels would prevent a sale going ahead.

TWO OF Britain's biggest engineering companies, Siebe and BTR, took the market by storm yesterday by unveiling plans for a £9.4bn merger.

The all-share deal will create the world's number one provider of "intelligent automation" systems for manufacturing, process controls, power systems and industrial drives.

The combined company will leapfrog rivals such as Siemens, ABB and Emerson. There is speculation, however, that the combined group's automotive business, which is mainly made up of BTR operations, will be sold off.

It has sales of £1.64bn and 28,000 employees and produces automotive sealing, vibration and fluid systems. The Siebe chairman, Lord Marshall, approached his opposite number at BTR, Bob Bauman, suggesting a merger about a month ago. The merger proposal was formally put during a meeting at the London offices of British Airways, where Lord Marshall is also chairman.

The respective chief executives and finance directors of the two companies were then brought in and the merger agreement was concluded in the space of about three weeks by a team of 15-20 executives and advisers.

BTR has underperformed the market by 80 per cent in the last five years, despite transforming itself from a sprawling conglomerate into a focused engineering group with a £6bn disposal programme.

Over the same period, Siebe has fared much better, performing more or less in line with the market and consolidating its position in automation and controls through a £2.2bn acquisition programme, which has seen it swallow up Unitech, APV and Eurotherm.

The two companies said the merger would create "significant incremental growth opportunities" through the cross-selling of a wider range of products to their respective customer bases.

BTR Siebe will have a 13,000-strong salesforce and commanding positions in a number of market sectors.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

February, when the merger is due to be completed.

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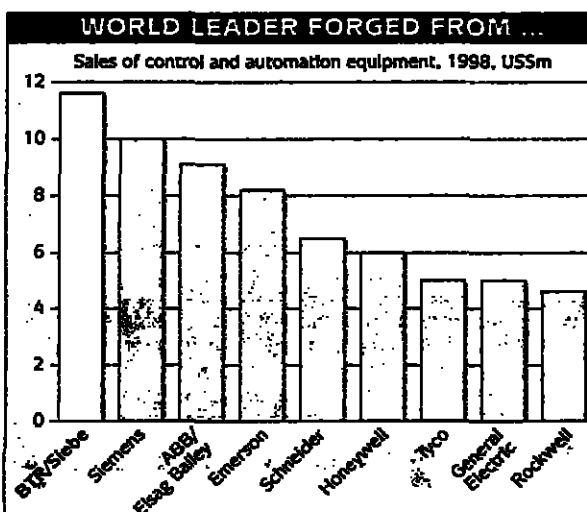
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It will be the world number one in automation, controls and power systems with market shares of 21 per cent, 18 per cent and 20 per cent respectively, and number four in the industrial drives and equipment market.

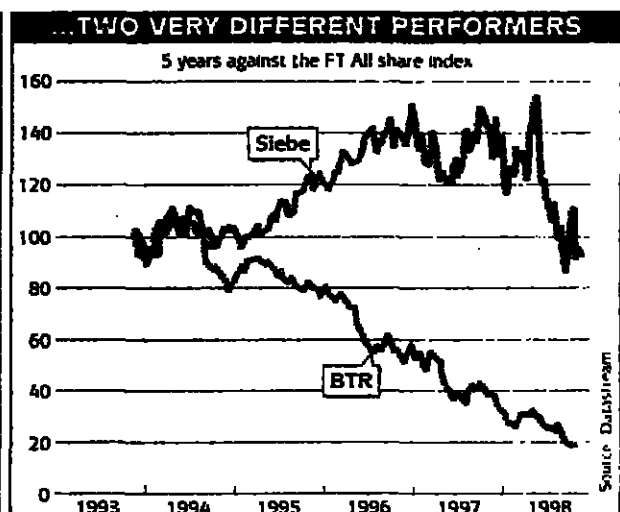
But Mr Yurko said the combined group did not envisage any regulatory problems from competition authorities. Shares in BTR ended the

day 40 per cent higher, while shares in Siebe rose by 13 per cent.

Shareholder approval will be required at extraordinary general meetings.

Separately, the American engineering conglomerate Tyco last night made an agreed \$11.5bn paper bid for electronics group AMP.

The deal is the latest sign of the revival in merger activity



in the US following the August stock market crash.

The white knight bid which trumps an earlier \$9.8bn offer from AlliedSignal which was rejected by the AMP board will boost Tyco's market capitalisation to around \$54bn.

Tyco has interests in medical supplies, electronics components and communications. The deal values AMP at \$51 a share against a closing price

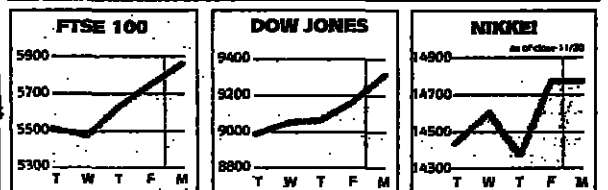
on Friday of \$44.125.

Tyco is best known for its ADT security systems and in the past 19 months has agreed to spend more than \$13.4bn to expand its four main businesses.

In another US engineering deal, B F Goodrich agreed to buy Coltec Industries for \$2.2bn or \$20.13 a share.

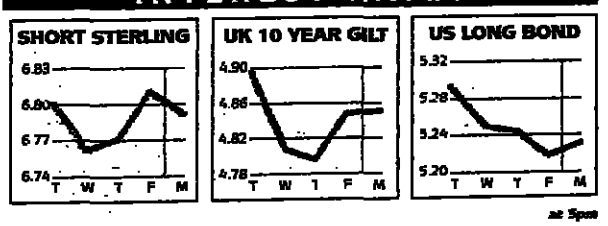
Outlook, page 21  
Derek Pain, page 23

### STOCK MARKETS



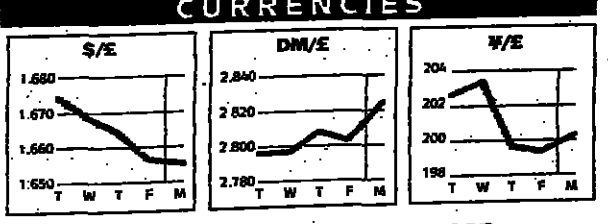
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5848.40	130.50	6183.70	4989.20	3.22
FTSE 250	4901.20	58.20	5270.00	4247.00	4.71
FTSE 350	2763.00	57.20	2911.00	2210.00	1.12
FTSE All Share	2664.60	52.80	2888.00	2143.00	...
FTSE 1000	2092.40	6.70	2288.00	1834.40	...
FTSE 10000	1198.90	2.90	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE 10000	820.40	0.60	1146.90	761.30	0.00
FTSE 10000	964.12	17.57	1186.00	761.30	0.00
Dow Jones	9302.44	134.59	10277.00	7400.00	1.61
Nikkei	14779.94	425.48	17332.00	12787.00	0.99
Hong Kong	10514.53	281.17	11236.00	8546.00	2.87
Dax	5019.12	107.24	5218.00	4217.00	1.77

### INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	6.94	-0.75	6.42	-1.51	4.82	-1.68	4.63	-1.83	...
US	5.25	-0.63	5.09	-0.91	4.82	-1.23	4.23	...	...
Japan	0.41	-0.06	0.45	-0.10	0.94	-1.03	1.54	-1.08	...
Germany	3.65	-0.10	3.55	-0.55	4.06	-1.46	4.59	-1.11	...

### CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Dollar	1.6550	+0.002	1.6900	1.5800	...
Mark	2.9229	+0.771	2.9400	2.7387	...
Yen	200.17	+0.11	214.58	180.00	...
£ Index	100.00	+0.00	104.50	95.00	...

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Brent Oil (\$)	10.61	-0.06	18.78	...	...
Gold (\$)	296.20	-0.05	...	...	...
Silver (\$)	4.92	-0.05	5.25	...	...
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	...	...
RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55	...	...
Base Rates	6.75	7.25	...	...	...

### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4953
Austria (schillings)	19.12
Belgium (francs)	56.23
Canada (\$)	2.4877
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8017
Denmark (krone)	10.41
Finland (markka)	8.2933
France (francs)	9.1241
Germany (marks)	2.7308
Greece (drachma)	456.22
Hong Kong (\$)	12.41
Ireland (pounds)	1.0987
India (rupees)	62.96
Israel (shekels)	6.3746
Italy (lira)	2709
Japan (yen)	195.29
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0208
Malta (lira)	0.6092
Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.85
Netherlands (guilder)	3.0674
New Zealand (\$)	2.9640
Norway (krone)	12.06
Portugal (escudos)	277.37
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0208
Singapore (\$)	2.5778
Spain (pesetas)	231.06
South Africa (rand)	8.9419
Sweden (krone)	13.04
Switzerland (francs)	2.7525
Thailand (bahts)	54.90
Turkey (liras)	472376
USA (\$)	1.6140

## Dresdner to follow Deutsche in US buy

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

Dresdner Bank chief executive Bernhard Walter gave a fresh twist to hopes of further consolidation on Wall Street when he said yesterday that the bank is ready to follow its rival Deutsche into a big US deal.

Mr Walter, who was speaking on German radio as Deutsche confirmed it was close to agreeing a \$9bn takeover of America's Bankers Trust, said that a large merger was "a very clear option".

Dresdner, Germany's third largest bank, was in talks earlier this year with PaineWebber, another US securities firm, although its interest more recently has been closer to home where it is said to be keen to merge with Societe Generale, the French bank.

The merger news powered shares in New York close to a new record with the Dow Jones up 173.27 points, at 9332.82, at

lunchtime. Brokerage firms PaineWebber, Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette, and Lehman Brothers, all soared by more than 10 per cent.

In a joint statement issued to coincide with the start of New York share trading, Deutsche and Bankers Trust said that it was hoped that work on the deal would be completed in time to receive final approval at separate board meetings scheduled for this coming Sunday.

Deutsche's management board chairman Rolf Breuer, who flew to New York for talks with his opposite number Frank Newman over the weekend, said yesterday that the merger with Bankers Trust would create "a truly compelling financial services company".

However, staff at the City of

both BT Alex Brown, Bankers Trust's securities operations, and Deutsche Bank were yesterday worried about their jobs.

BT's 2,400 London staff fear a repeat of the blood bath that followed UBS' merger with Warburg.

Given the concerns that surfaced during the recent financial markets turmoil about Bankers Trust's financial strength, Deutsche is understood to be keen to ensure that the due diligence process has been thorough before approving the deal.

Another key issue that has yet to be resolved concerns the management structure. Deutsche may model the business on Credit Suisse First Boston, which is owned by Swiss bank Credit Suisse but run from Wall Street.

SHARES in Guardian Royal Exchange, the fifth largest UK insurer, soared 42.5p to 350p yesterday after the group confirmed it was looking at a number of options which "may or may not lead to an offer for the company".

Shareholders said last night that to have a chance of succeeding any offer would have to be pitched at more than £4, valuing the company at over £3.5bn. "At that level there will be some premium to net asset value," said one investor last night.

Axa, the French insurance giant, has already made an informal approach to GRE serious enough to have been discussed at board level. Claude Bebear, the Axa chairman, has been talking over the past few days about the opportunities created for expansion by the recent share price falls.

GRE believes that there are a number of other insurance groups who may be prepared to make a bid.

Morgan Stanley is also looking at whether it would make sense to solicit offers for parts of the business.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

He is sounding out advisers in readiness for a more formal bid for GRE including Warburg Dillon Reed, the investment bank Warburg acts as broker to Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, Axa's quoted UK offshoot, which is believed to be the preferred vehicle for the bid.

Last week's the Independent reported that Axa was considering a bid. It emerged over the weekend that GRE had appointed Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, to examine a number of alternatives.

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Analysts said that Allianz of Germany and AIG, the US insurer, may be interested in expanding into the UK. However, they were dismissive of other bidders touted over the weekend.

Norwich Union, which is also big in healthcare insurance, could face competition problems because of GRE's recent acquisition of PPP, the healthcare insurer.

However, the firm is running down its UK operations and thought unlikely to want to get involved in a contested situation, particularly one which could get messy.

"It looks like Axa is very much in the lead. It must do a deal if it wants to get into the top three," said Matthew Wright, an insurance analyst at Daiwa.

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

FOOTSE SCORED its third century in succession with a 130.9 point surge to 9,332.82, the highest since early August.

Lower interest rate hopes helped, but it was an outbreak of corporate action among Footsie shares which provided most of the impetus. The £9.3bn BTR/Siebe deal and insurance group GRE's admission of possible bid action revived old-fashioned bid fever. BTR rose 38p to 133p and Siebe 28p to 243p. GRE jumped 42.5p to 350.5p.

#### NEW YORK

THE DOW rose to within 40 points of its all-time record as share prices surged. The index rose by 170 points to hit 9,337.97 just after midday, just short of its July peak.

Two potential mergers, between Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank, and between AOL and Netscape, fuelled the rise. Analysts said the mergers were constricting the supply of stocks, forcing the index up as demand for shares grew. Financial and computer-related stocks led the charge.

#### HONG KONG

STOCKS kicked off the world-wide bull run, gaining 2.75 per cent by the close of trade. The Hang Seng leapt 281.17 points to end at 10,514.53.

The jump in share prices was led by HSBC Holdings, which rallied HK\$11.000 to close at HK\$197.50. HSBC was up on the back of Friday's boom in financial stocks in London and New York, and confirmation of a merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust.

#### FRANKFURT

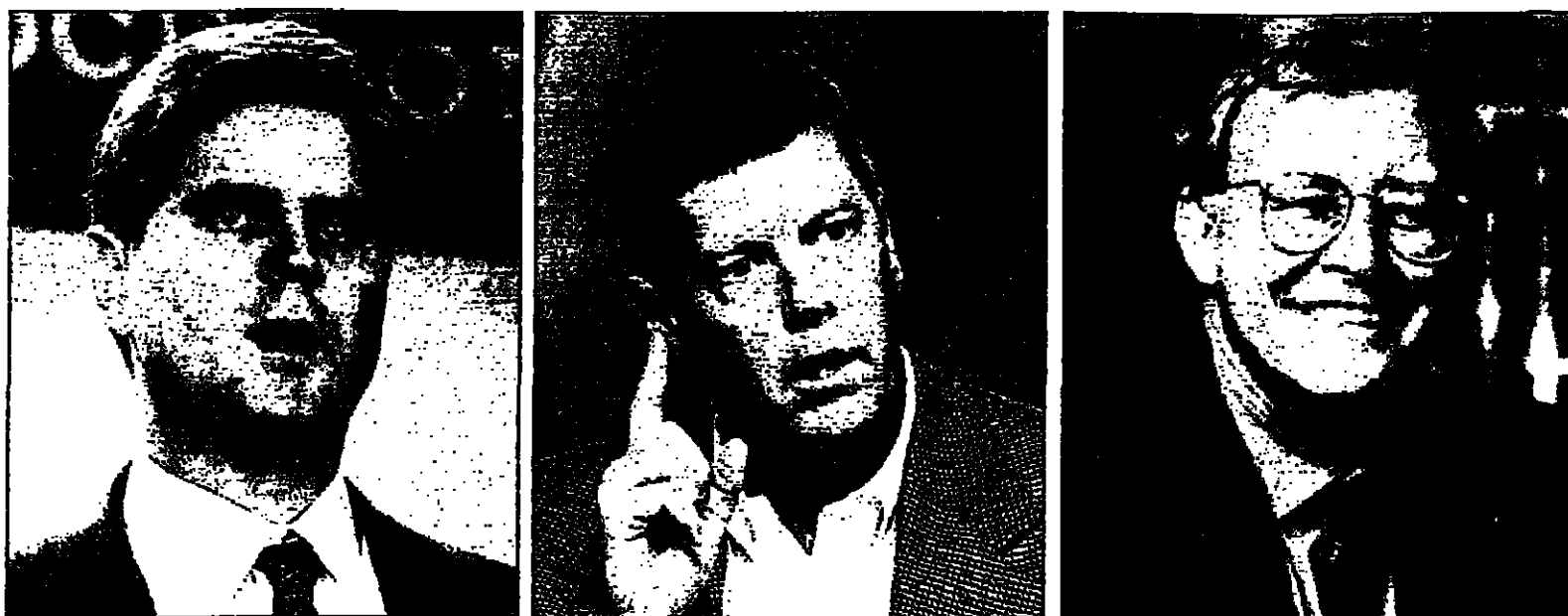
THE XETRA DAX broke through the psychologically-important 5,000 point barrier on confirmation of talks between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust.

The blue-chip index jumped 230 points to close at 5,024.51 points, the first time it has risen above 5,000 in 11 weeks. Dresdner Bank rose by more than 5 per cent, while Commerzbank and HypoVereinsbank also made big gains.

#### PARIS

FINANCIAL stocks led a 1.13 per cent rally in Paris as merger mania spread across the border from Germany.

The CAC-40 index of leading shares rose 43.02 points to close at 3,645.61. BNP, Societe Generale, and Axa powered the index higher in heavy trading. BNP was up nearly 8 per cent to close at 429 francs, while SG rose nearly 5 per cent to end at 921 francs. Shares in SG have now risen by 22 per cent in five days.



America Online's chairman Steve Case; Sun Microsystems' chief executive Scott McNealy, and Netscape Corporation's chairman Jim Clark AP

## AOL's talks with Netscape fuel battle for cyberspace

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

ALREADY AFIRE with white-hot public offerings from serial newcomers and the continuing saga of Microsoft's anti-trust trial in Washington DC, the internet sector was in the spotlight again yesterday with confirmation that two of the best-known names in cyberspace are in the midst of takeover negotiations.

If consummated, the proposed acquisition of browser pioneer Netscape Communications by the granddaddy of online providers, America Online, would spell a radical realignment of the industry that promises to be one of the main engines of economic growth in the United States and Europe in the next century.

AOL's absorption of Netscape, a company that was only born in 1994, could have especially profound implications for Microsoft and its already embattled founder, Bill Gates. With Sun Microsystems also expected to play a part in the deal, Microsoft could find itself facing a new and significantly more powerful alliance.

A combination of AOL and Netscape could prove especially critical in Europe, where the internet revolution has not yet ripened quite as it has in the US. A newly strengthened AOL would be better placed to battle

**News Analysis: US government's case against Microsoft could be undermined by proposed deal between rivals**

with Microsoft for dominance in the rich European market.

Both Virginia-based AOL and Netscape, which is headquartered in California's Silicon Valley, confirmed yesterday that takeover talks were under way. They cautioned, however, that hopes for an agreement, involving a pooling of shares, could still fall apart. A final deal was thought to be close, however.

Intriguingly, executives from all three of the companies involved, AOL, Netscape and Sun Microsystems, have been called to testify for the US government in the Microsoft monopoly-abuse trial in Washington. While officials with the companies deny the deal would represent an effort to "circle the wagons" around Microsoft, Mr Gates is certain to view it as a dangerous coming-together of his foes.

The implications for the government's lawsuit against Gates could be profound. Yesterday lawyers for Microsoft were already attempting to depict a fusion of AOL and Netscape as an illustration of their central contention: that Microsoft's aggressive business strategies - considered illegal by the government - are no different from those employed by its rivals.

"From a legal standpoint,

the proposed deal pulls the rug out from under the government," a leading lawyer for Microsoft, William Neukom, said in court yesterday. He added: "Microsoft's competitors have always had the ability and the resources to change the competitive landscape overnight."

Filed by the federal government and 20 US states, the suit against Microsoft accuses it of illegally abusing its domination in the PC software sector to frustrate its rivals. The company considered to have suffered the worst from Microsoft's bullying is Netscape. Netscape was the darling of Wall Street after the introduction of its Navigator browser in 1996 but has since been significantly enfeebled by Microsoft's aggressive entry into the field with its own Internet Explorer browser.

A deal with AOL and Sun would offer Netscape and its founder, James Barksdale, a dignified way out of its difficulties. According to yesterday's reports, shareholders in Netscape would receive 0.45 of an AOL share for each of their Netscape shares. That would value Netscape at \$4bn.

Recently, Netscape has not had the cash to continue its crusade against Microsoft. "This

deal would ensure that the fundamental elements of Netscape survive within bigger companies that can drive its technologies forward," remarked David Wolfe of the Harvard Business School.

"Netscape is a company that has been struggling financially for at least the past three quarters," said Jim Bladerston of Zona Research. "AOL is riding in as the cavalry to rescue them."

AOL was founded in 1985 by Steve Case, initially as an online chat room service for Apple Computer loyalists. Last year, it swallowed its main online competitor, CompuServe, and it boasts 14 million subscribers around the world. If it completes this deal, it will gain customers from Netscape's Navigator browser and its popular web site, or internet portal, Netcenter.

Analysts believe that by digesting Netscape, America Online, which until now has mainly aimed itself at the consumer market, would be better positioned to take on Yahoo!, which operates its own worldwide web portal that has a much stronger base among business users.

Sun Microsystems, headed by Scott McNealy and the inventor of Java, the software

language that represents the main threat to Microsoft's Windows hegemony, already has a long-standing relationship with Netscape. As a third partner in the proposed agreement, Sun would distribute software developed by Netscape that runs the server computers that power company web sites. Many of those computers are made by Sun and operate with the Java language.

Netscape's portal page, Netcenter, has been showing particular promise in the European market. Commenting on the implications of its digestion by AOL, William Field of Spectrum Strategy Consultants, noted: "AOL is aiming at Europe and the other non-US markets to catch the next wave of internet growth. Microsoft and its partners are second to none, but AOL-Netscape would be tough competition."

The stakes in this battle are huge. In the race to establish popular worldwide web portals, or gateways, for both business and private consumers, AOL and Microsoft are looking to harness what are expected to be huge revenues from burgeoning commerce over the internet. A recent study found, for example, that nearly half of all PC-owners in the US will do some of their Christmas shopping via cyberspace this season, most of them for the first time.

## M&S fears Greenbury could quit

**DIRECTORS OF Marks & Spencer are concerned that Sir Richard Greenbury will quit the company if he does not get his way in the management succession battle.**

Although Sir Richard has not threatened to leave, the board is mindful that he may decide to go if his chosen successor, Peter Salsbury, is not given the chief executive position.

This would be regarded as a disaster in many quarters because Sir Richard is highly regarded for his record at M&S over the years, even though the company has lost its touch in recent months. A sudden and acrimonious departure would have a damaging effect on the business.

The possibility of a fait accompli arises as the M&S board prepares to meet tomorrow to discuss the management succession. It is understood that one of the non-executive directors has put himself forward as a possible deputy chairman of the company in an attempt to defuse the battle between Mr Salsbury and Keith Oates, the other key candidate for the job.

Brian Baldock, a former deputy chairman of Guinness, has offered to take on a similar position at M&S. However, it is thought that the board is unlikely to back his nomination ahead of an external candidate.

Insiders say that creating the

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

new position of deputy chairman would only be worthwhile if it brought in outside experience to the business.

Lord MacLaurin, the former Tesco chairman, is seen as one possibility although he currently has a busy schedule combining his non-executive directorships with his role as chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

M&S is under growing pressure from institutional investors to resolve the management succession quickly.

The company had originally intended to make an announcement in May following the completion of a strategic review.



Sir Richard Greenbury: Highly regarded at M&amp;S

## Profits leap at building society

BY ANDREW VERITY

**NATIONWIDE, the building society, yesterday reported a 20.4 per cent jump in profits in the last six months in spite of the slowdown in the housing market.**

Pre-tax profits leapt from £176.6m to £212.7m as new customers joined the society during its high-profile campaign to stay mutual. In a July poll of its members, Nationwide narrowly voted to stay mutual.

Publicity surrounding the campaign led to an upsurge in savings business, where balances grew by 8.6 per cent over the half year. Reserves grew to £2.8bn.

However, Nationwide's share of the mortgage market slipped as some borrowers redeemed their loans following the vote in July. The society's share of new loans fell from 11.3 to 11.6 per cent.

Brian Davis, chief executive, said: "I'm surprised in some ways we have managed to hold it up there, given that the share of existing mortgages is much less - around 8 per cent."

Mr Davis said costs had been sharply reduced over the last year but further cuts were needed. He also warned of a difficult year in the mortgage market during 1999.

"We are all preparing ourselves for a bit of a downturn but we don't want to talk ourselves into it. Our projections are still for interest rates to be around 6 per cent-ish at the end of next year."

### COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Adair (I)	188.0m (120.6m)	8.9m (7.1m)	15.0p (12.2p)	5.10p (4.20p)	29.01.99	29.12.98
Adair (J)	1.3m (1.1m)	0.05m (0.04m)	0.01p (0.01p)	0.01p (0.01p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (K)	259.5m (254.8m)	23.3m (19.3m)	6.40p (5.00p)	2.40p (2.00p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (L)	128.7m (107.8m)	1.2m (1.0m)	0.02p (0.02p)	0.02p (0.02p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (M)	1.3m (1.1m)	0.05m (0.04m)	0.01p (0.01p)	0.01p (0.01p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (N)	27.5m (21.7m)	2.1m (1.7m)	13.1p (11.1p)	3.01p (2.51p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (O)	15.9m (10.9m)	2.1m (1.5m)	4.1p (3.1p)	0.46p (0.36p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (P)	32.8m (25.7m)	2.8m (2.1m)	1.5p (1.2p)	1.1p (0.9p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (Q)	36.5m (23.9m)	3.0m (2.0m)	1.9p (1.3p)	0.21p (0.14p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (R)	0.00m (0.01m)	-0.1m (-0.05m)	-0.01p (-0.01p)	-0.01p (-0.01p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (S)	29.1m (24.7m)	1.0m (0.8m)	0.05p (0.04p)	0.05p (0.04p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (T)	74.0m (73.0m)	12.5m (14.0m)	17.4p (19.5p)	18.5p (19.5p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
Adair (U)	131.0m (110.0m)	10.0m (10.0m)	8.0p (8.0p)	2.50p (2.50p)	01.01.99	01.01.99
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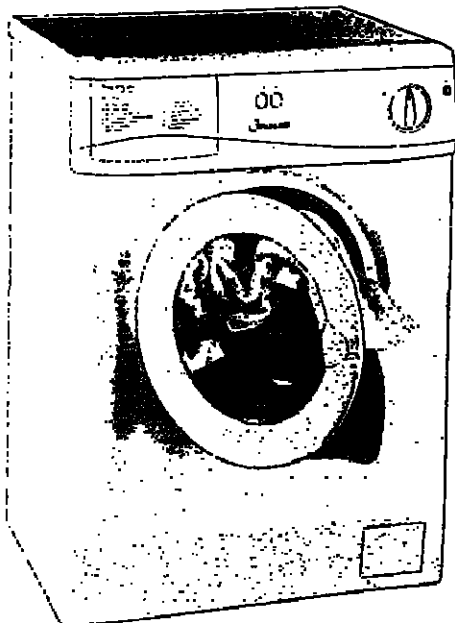
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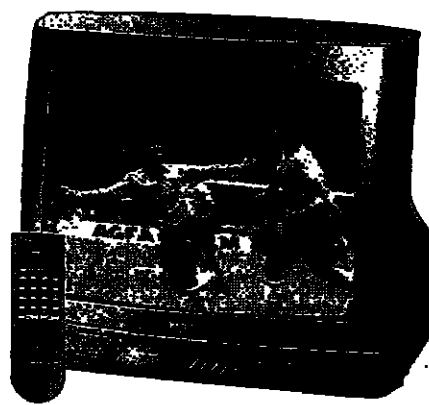
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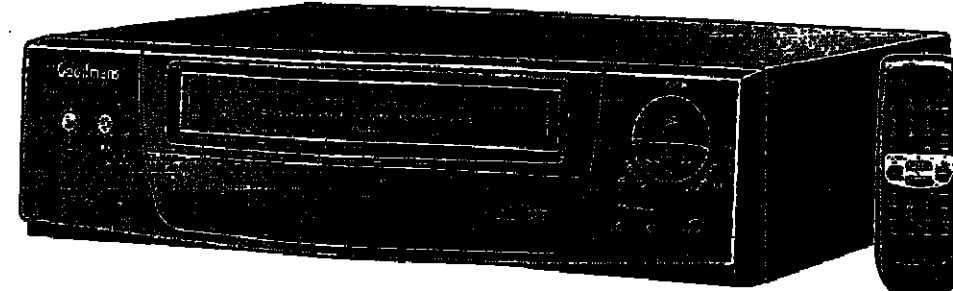
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# SPORT

Football: Another season of slumming among the League's lower orders already faces Royle's retinue

## City's Maine Road to nowhere

BY GLENN MOORE

THE MANCHESTER City fans turned to the away support and chorused: "Who the \*\*\*\* are you?" Standard terrace banter, except they genuinely did not know who Gillingham, their visitors on Saturday, were. As Hills fan said afterwards: "They kept asking us: 'Where is Gillingham?' They had no idea."

This, then, is the cold reality of Manchester City's descent. While Manchester United leave today for a Champions' League tie in Barcelona, their neighbours are now playing teams they have barely heard of. And to make it worse, they cannot beat them.

Gillingham, who are actually two places above City in the Nationwide League's Second Division, gained a goalless draw on their Maine Road League debut and, though they needed a little fortune at times, just deserved it.

The result left City in seventh place, on the fringe of the play-off places but 11 points behind the run-away leaders Fulham and Stoke, who occupy the automatic promotion spots. A second season of slumming beckons already.

This is not what their supporters envisaged when they were relegated in a blaze of defiance last May. The final-day 5-2 win at Stoke was supposed to presage a glorious tour of football's lower division outposts, with the likes of Gillingham being swept away. Instead City have won just four home games out of 10 and have lost at Wycombe and Lincoln, the bottom two clubs.

"I see two teams at every club," Joe Royle, the City manager, said.

"Whenever I go to see future opponents play I don't see much to trouble me, but then they come to Maine Road and are galvanised. Or we go there and it's the biggest game of the season and they're galvanised. Everyone plays better against us. They're used to playing in front of three or four thousand then they come here with 25,000, it's like all their holidays have come at once."

Tony Pulis, the Gillingham manager, confirmed that the away dressing-room had been buzzing before the game with a nervous energy rarely experienced in the provincial repertory of the Nationwide. "Their problem is every match they play is a cup final," he added of City.

That is just one of City's problems. Another is that they do not possess the resources to match their profile. "The big spenders in this division are Fulham and Wigan," Royle said. "That sounds strange from a Man City manager but our spending's been minimal, about £300,000 this season."

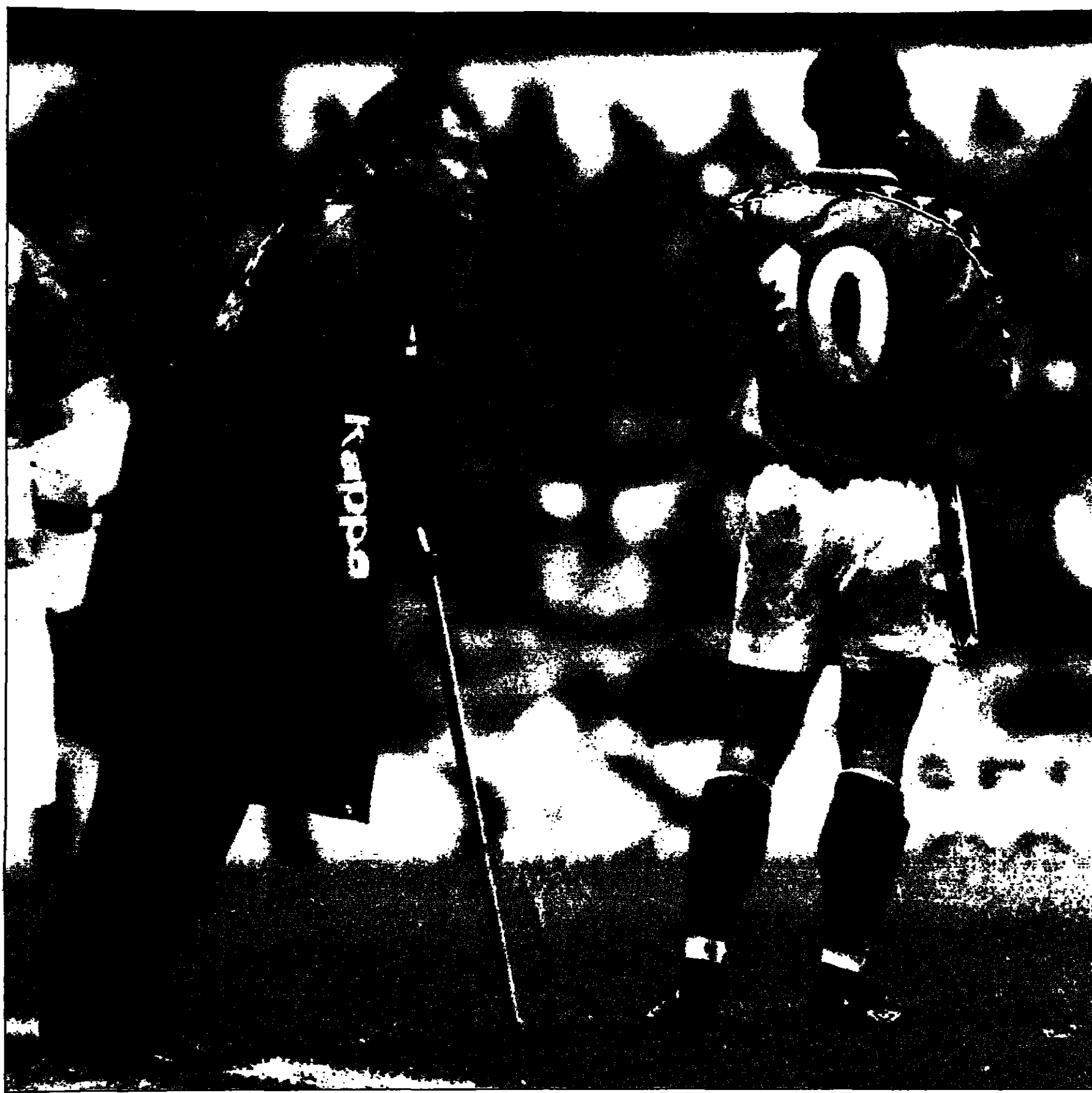
Fulham are backed by the Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed, Wigan by the millionaire proprietor of the JJB sports shop chain, Dave Whelan. City, however, have been unable to attract similar support, their latest chairman, David Bernstein, informed the recent AGM. Having spent £31m on players in the past five years, there is nothing left.

The club still generates a huge income by the standards of the division, helped by the gates which still top 26,000, but have had expenses to match.

When Royle arrived in February there were 53 players on the staff, many earning wages agreed when the club was still in the Premiership. It cost £250,000, for example, to pay off Nigel Clough.

The situation is unlikely to be helped by the unexpected resignation yesterday of Mike Turner, the chief executive, after just 18 months at Maine Road. Not that clubs like Gillingham, who narrowly survived both bankruptcy and relegation to the Conference four years ago, are likely to be sympathetic.

Fortunately for City, Royle has experience of working successfully



City manager Joe Royle passes on instruction to Michael Branch while (below) Paul Dickov struggles for possession with a Gillingham defender as Manchester City were held to a goalless draw on Saturday. City, a top Premiership club six years ago, have won four Second Division games out of 10 this season Stuart McCormick

on a tight budget from his days at Oldham.

In nine months, Royle has moved 26 players out and brought seven in, a sum he hopes to add to this week with the purchase of either Aberdeen's Craig Hignett, Everton's Michael Branch, or both. With a new formation being developed as well consistency is, naturally, hard to achieve.

"You don't turn from a losing

There was certainly no lack of endeavour but it needed guile as well as sweat to beat a Gillingham side which was equally committed. A crowd still pining for Gheorgi Kinkladze had to settle for Craig Russell's wing-play which, though enterprising, merely played into the hands of Gillingham's big central defence.

At times City played well with Gary Mason, rescued from the

Mason missed good chances. But there were boos from the crowd at the end of both halves, the crowd jeered the persevering Tony Vaughan, and after-match comment on the local radio phone-in ended with the description "abysmal".

That was harsh on City but the support is not yet ready to be considered a club such as Gillingham - which although an experienced, well-organised team, has never been out of the lower divisions and won its sole honour, the Fourth Division championship, 35 years ago - as an equal. Nor, in truth, did the men of Kent feel as such. They sang: "You're not famous any more." But the presence of 2,700 travelling fans, half the average home gate, underlined City's attraction.

The only other time these teams met, in the FA Cup in 1908, Gillingham were called New Brompton and in the Southern League; City were headed for third place in the old First Division. Ancient history but, as the stadium emptied on Saturday, City's fifth place in the top flight six years ago seemed just as distant.



*'Everyone plays better against us; they come here with 26,000 - it's like all their holidays have come at once'*

team to a winning team overnight," Royle said, "but that's what we have to do. Though I'd like to bring in a couple more [players] to nail it down, what we now have is good enough for this division and I expect us to get stronger as the season goes on. When I first came here I thought we had dishonest players but they are an honest team now with good characters."

depths of third-team football by Royle, frequently involved. The busy Shaun Goater could have scored twice in the opening 15 minutes, hitting the post after rounding Jim Stannard then seeing the goalkeeper make a brilliant reaction save to his point-blank header. After the break Andy Morrison had a thumping header cleared off the line by Nicky Southall while Russell and

## Meadow no golden field for Murphy

Tonight's FA Cup replays again pit part-timers against the professionals.

By Ian Parkes



AS IT is highly unlikely that Notts County should decide to take the night off this evening, the fears of the Hendon manager, Frank Murphy, appear well-founded. The Scotsman believes that is only way his part-timers can join the ranks of FA Cup giant-killers as his Ryman Premier League part-timers head to Meadow Lane for their first round replay.

It was only the state of Hendon's pitch nine days ago which Murphy reckons prevented the Nationwide League Second Division club from progressing to the second round. Now he fears the worst.

"This game is a far cry from when they had a 1pm kick-off on a Sunday afternoon on what looks like the local playing field," he said. "That didn't suit them at all. They took one look at it and didn't fancy it. But it was a bonus it went to the replay. If I'd known beforehand we would get the draw I would have been happy. To be honest, we can't compare with Notts County. I'm just hoping they have a night off."

"But I've got some honest lads and all I ask is they go up there and perform to the best of their ability."

Rochdale and Scarborough meet for the third time in four games, with the latter's Mick Wadsworth believing his side can maintain their unbeaten run against their Lancashire opponents. A League win at Spotland followed the first-round draw and despite having just 14 fit players for the trip over the Pennines, Wadsworth said: "We are looking forward to it. It's a one-off game, which will go to a result on the night and we are very confident."

Gil Prescott, Macclesfield's assistant manager, is considering the stark reality of an FA Cup defeat for his side against Slough, of the Conference. After being held at Moss Rose, Prescott said: "They have earned the right to play at home but if we can't beat them then we don't deserve to be in the competition."

The Exeter manager, Peter Fox, already has his eye on a lucrative second round tie following his side's late escape at Dr Martens League Premier Division side Tamworth. City equalised in the fifth minute of injury-time to snatch a 2-2 draw and a replay at St James' Park, with Fox admitting: "The late equaliser at their place was ideal for us. It's turned the tie around."

"It was a tricky game but we have given ourselves a chance now. If we can get through it sets up a nice West Country derby with Bristol Rovers."

Darlington have offered the help of their physio to get West Auckland's Gary Innes (back) and Darren Jackson (shoulder) fit for their home replay date with Yeovil. Graeme Foster, manager of the Northern League club, said: "Darlington, Hartlepool and Bedlington are through and with the backing of 2,000 fans we can join them."

Ronnie Moore faces another selection problem for Rotherham's Millmoor replay against Emley: Paul Dillon, Jason White, Gijbert Bos, Alan Knill and Gary Martindale are all out because of injury, while new signing Rob Scott and on-loan Paul Raven are ineligible to face the Uni-Bond League club.

Plymouth wait on the fitness of Chris Hargreaves, Sean McCarthy and Mick Heathcote for their trip to Kidderminster Harriers.

## Celts have more reason to relish England's elite league

ONLY a few months ago some commentators were still maintaining that what they called the Celtic nations should detach themselves, or be forcibly detached from, the Five Nations' Championship. The consequence would be that the competition would be at an end. They could have their own competition instead, bringing in, certainly Italy and, possibly, Romania as well. Meanwhile, England and France would play with the big boys from the southern hemisphere. They would not be winners at first, naturally. They would probably finish behind South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. But gradually their standards would improve. There would be a repartitioning of world rugby with England secure in a seat at the top table.

This scheme for the future was of colossal arrogance. It was also, I suspected - and suspect still, for it continues to be advanced from time to time - motivated more by commercial considerations than by any concern for the future of the game.

At the heart of it was commercial exploitation both of the Twickenham stadium and of Sky Television. I am not accusing the Rugby Football Union of pressing for dual-class world rugby in any official way: merely observing that it occurred to several people that, if the new stadium could host, not just the odd match before Christmas, but a succession of matches in the new year involving South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, even greater riches would accrue from the pockets of Rupert Murdoch.

This assumed that the tendencies of the 1990s would be maintained, even accelerated, England and France consolidating their position as the great rugby powers of Europe. While it is true that these countries dominated the Five Nations for most of the decade, with England v France the crucial match of the season, we Celts have had our moments as well.

Jeremy Guscott apart, the Lions who were principally responsible for defeating South Africa in 1997 came from outside England: Jeremy Davidson, Scott Gibbs, Neil Jenkins, Tom Smith, Alan Tait, Paul Wallace and Keith Wood. If Robert Howley and Scott Quinnell had not gone home because of injury, no doubt they would have made an equally substantial contribution.



ALAN WATKINS

What we have seen of the national sides so far, whether playing against South Africa or in World Cup qualifying matches, indicates that this will be the most open Five Nations for some time. After this season it will become the Six

Nations, when Italy deservedly join the competition.

Nor do we quite know what long-term effect the Allied Dunbar Premiership One will have on the national sides. It has been assumed that England will benefit from the high or, at any rate, tough standard of rugby played in the league; that Scotland and Ireland, both of whom have no difficulty in selecting exiled players (Scotland had six in Saturday's pack), will benefit also; but that Wales, who like to pick the boys who stay at home, will lose.

Until the advent of Graham Henry, I should have agreed with the last bit. I have little doubt that the Quinnell brothers were excluded as they were not only because they were allegedly unfit but also because they were playing for Richmond

(though Scott has now returned to Llanelli).

I should like nothing more, in rugby anyway, than for Llanelli, Neath and Newport to return to their former glory. The decline of Llanelli is particularly painful to me, though they have so far performed surprisingly well in the European Cup, a competition attenuated by the petulant and unnecessary withdrawal of the English clubs.

But in the professional game the players will follow the money. In South Wales that substance is - always has been - in short supply, except in Cardiff and, to a lesser extent, Swansea, who have emphasised their primacy by withdrawing from Welsh competition.

Henry, it is clear, has no prejudice against players from these

last two clubs: the Welsh Rugby Union is so daft that it would have been perfectly capable of ordering him not to pick them. Nor has he any prejudice against English-based players. He has selected Shane Howarth of Sale, and Craig Quinnell and (as a substitute) Barry Williams of Richmond. We are told he may shortly choose Pieter Rodgers of London Irish, as far as I know the first member of that club to play for Wales.

In all this the losers may well turn out to be England. For the proportion of home products of international class in the league is going down. I am prepared to bet that, before the season is out, the proud wearer of the England No 10 jersey will be Simon Mannix of Gloucester, formerly of Sale - and New Zealand.











First Test: Australia capitalise after McGrath savages tourists' tail with a rabbit mentality

# The England underbelly exposed again

FOR A remote island, Australia harbours a large number of deadly species. But if funnel webs and redbacks are rarely encountered by unsuspecting tourists, the likes of Glenn McGrath and Michael Slater most certainly are, and having begun the fourth day with their first innings poised promisingly on 299-4, they ended it in less auspicious circumstances.

Demolished by McGrath, who took 6 for 85, and then battered by a rapid Slater century, England, unable to find an antidote, were outplayed in all departments. But if two of Australia's finest were a handful, the visitors were culpable, too, and some of the cricket, particularly the lower order's batting in the morning session, was witless.

To be bowled out before lunch on a good batting pitch was not something England's flimsy tail will care to remember. One of the golden rules of modern Test cricket is that you eke out every run. Not for the first time England's tail ignored the rule book to leave a batsman, Mark Ramprakash, high and dry on 69 not out.

Graham Gooch, the tour manager, never a man to mince his words, was unequivocal about the batting performance. "In Test cricket you have to sell your wicket dearly," he said. "It's crucial that you lower order spend time at the crease and make it difficult for bowlers to get them out."

McGrath, who executed the collapse with a hostile spell of 5 for 19 in 10.2 overs, also had a few home truths for England's rear end. "It was always our aim that when we got down to Cork and Mullally to up the ante and bowl aggressively," said McGrath.

"We always plan to attack and bounce the tail and get

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
in Brisbane

Australia 485 & 237-3 dec  
England 375 & 26-0

them out cheaply. If you look how our late-order batsmen have contributed over the past four or five years, it has often been the difference between winning and losing."

The point can be illustrated by the first innings here, and while Australia's last five batsmen added a mammoth 307, England's managed just 60. Mind you, England's record in this department has been exceptionally poor over the past 12 months. Since the beginning of the West Indies tour, their last five batsmen have averaged nine runs per wicket.

Considering all but the softest rabbits in world cricket average between 15 and 25, it must be a major source of concern and, while no one is expecting the tail to score a sizeable percentage of the total, they must try to occupy the crease, particularly if a top-order batsman is at the other end. It is not easy, and a bowler like McGrath, particularly when he has angst in his pants - which seems to happen every time he has a ball in his hand - can strike at any time.

However, making his job easier, which is what Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally did by trying to hook him off their noses, was sheer folly. If Graham Thorpe's dismissal, caught hooking by Justin Langer moments earlier, was not a hint that the shot was a risky one, then it should have been.

As it was, Thorpe played the shot well and was a mite unlucky that he found the one man in an otherwise unpopulated sector of the field. By contrast,

Cork and Mullally were thought out. In the latter's case, out hooking first ball, the brain power required was not huge.

Cork, a feisty fellow, simply allowed his ego to get the better of him, after McGrath had peppered him with a mixture of bouncers and verbal abuse. It was a short-lived contest and Cork's macho attempt at brinkmanship ended when he tamely spliced his attempted hook to mid-on.

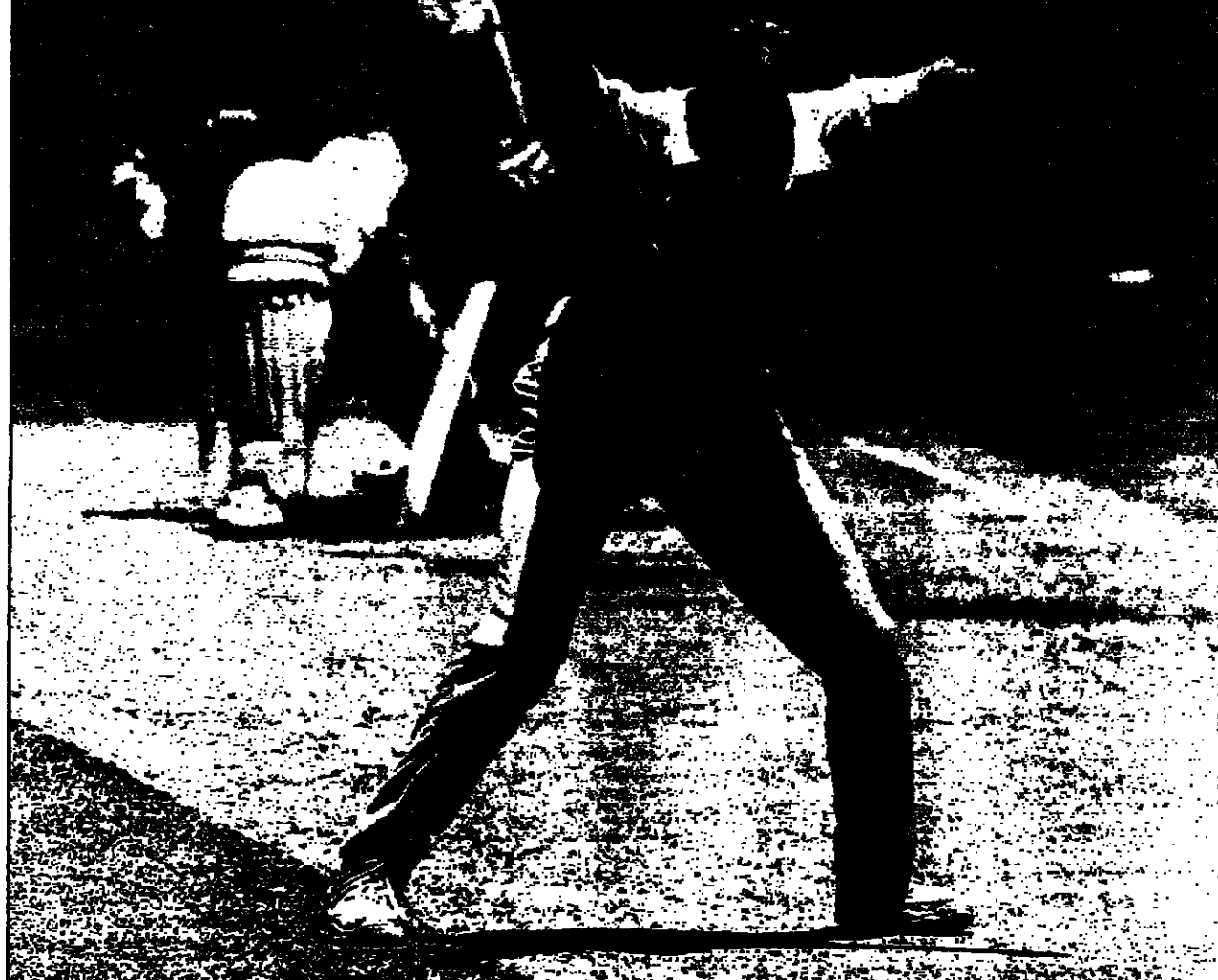
Only Robert Croft showed the necessary fibre, as he and Ramprakash, himself playing with great aplomb, added 41 for the seventh wicket. Having worked hard to overcome his weakness against the short ball, Croft was bowled off the inside-edge by one from Mike Kasprudzki that kept a fraction low.

With Darren Gough the third of the ducks falling lbw, and Angus Fraser managing just a single before fending a short ball to slip, England ended their innings scoring in binary, a mode that rather devalued the earlier contributions of Thorpe and Mark Butcher.

The collapse had more far-reaching effects than simply allowing Australia a substantial lead. For one thing it made England's bowlers and fielders despondent, a mood heartily taken advantage of by Slater as he flayed England's attack at all corners of the Gabba.

Off the mark with a lofted cover drive for four off Cork in the second over, the dashing opener took a particular liking to Gough. Despite losing Mark Taylor for nought in the fourth over, after his captain dragged on, Slater showed no mercy and Gough's first three overs went for 28.

Normally an accumulator, Langer, too, played his shots, scoring 74 before holding out to



Darren Gough is trapped lbw as Glenn McGrath mops up the England tail, taking 6 for 85

Allsport

Croft at long-on. Indeed, there was barely a let-up in the carnage until Fraser and then Croft, who extracted some turn, slowed the flow to something marginally over three runs per over. Even so, the breadth and imagination of Slater's strokeplay, especially his cutting, made the 139-ball century one to savour.

Slater certainly thought so and scampering the quick single that saw him to three figures, he sped off in the direction of his team-mates in a joyful display, before kissing the Australian badge on his helmet.

Following a season with Derbyshire, that he found invaluable despite the sporty pitches, he clearly relishes England's at-

tack. So far five of his nine Test centuries have come from games against England.

"Although that type of innings wasn't planned, I went to the crease extremely pumped up," said Slater. "There were quite a few balls to hit, and I was quick to seize on anything loose."

Not long ago Slater was

dropped from the Test team for poor shot selection.

If there is an irony it is that by refusing to play England's steady attack on its merits, he allowed his captain - already tempted after his opponents had revealed their soft underbelly to McGrath - to declare before the end of the day, 347 runs ahead.

## W Indies fall to Cronje's mastery

BY NORMAN BROWN  
in Bloemfontein

West Indies 316 & 188  
Free State 67 & 438-8  
Free State win by two wickets

HANSIE CRONJE, the South African captain, struck an unbeaten 158 to steer Free State to an astonishing two-wicket victory over the West Indies on the final day of their four-day match here yesterday.

It took the home side just 35 minutes to clinch victory, advancing from their overnight 412 for 8 to the required 438 in 6.4 overs. Free State looked dead and buried when they were bowled out for 67 in their first innings. But they fought back to dismiss the West Indies for 188 and then battled their way to victory.

The hard work was done on Sunday by Cronje and he and the pace bowler, Johan van der Wath, duly completed the task yesterday. The result was a big jolt for the West Indies and a huge boost for Cronje ahead of the first Test in Johannesburg, starting on Thursday.

The captain, Brian Lara, recognising the unhappy situation, said: "In our last two matches our opponents have scored more than 400 runs against us in their second innings and that is something we will have to look at." The tourists' previous game, against Griqualand West, ended in a draw, with the home side reaching 438 for 9.

Cronje paved the way for victory with a brilliant performance on Sunday when he finished on 147. At one stage his ally in victory, Van der Wath, contributed just nine runs as the score moved on by 109.

The West Indies helped dig their own grave by asking for the extra half hour on Sunday evening. In fading light, they were unable to take the second new ball and Cronje milked the spinners for five overs when he would ordinarily have had to face well-armed pacemen.

In all, Cronje was at the crease for 196 minutes, faced 165 balls and hit 14 fours and sixes in an emphatic display. He was dropped on 157 - with the total on 436 for 8 - by Curtly Ambrose at fine leg off the bowling of Nixon McLean.

Van der Wath, playing in his fourth first-class match, scored 14 of the 28 runs yesterday to finish on 23 not out. The pair put on a Free State record of 135 runs for the ninth wicket, bettering the previous mark of 125. The Free State total was the highest successful fourth innings by a South African team against a touring side, and the second highest in South African first-class history.

There was more bad news for the West Indies after the defeat. The leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine, who took 3 for 138 off 29 overs in the second innings, is struggling with a shoulder injury and the tourists may have to call for a replacement.

First day, West Indies won 205

WEST INDIES - First innings 316

WEST INDIES - Second innings 188

FREE STATE - First innings 67

FREE STATE - Second innings 438

W J Cronje not out 147

J Van der Wath not out 23

Extras (b1 w2 nb5) 12

Total (for 6) 438

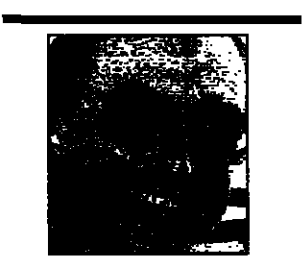
Bowling: Ambrose 15-3-42-1 (nb3); McLean 14-4-1-22-0 (nb1); O'Connell 15-0-58-1 (nb1); Lambert 2-0-13-0; Hooper 1-1-17-2; Ramnarine 29-7-138-3 (nb1); Chanderpaul 2-0-16-0

## Cork and Mullally lose the plot

THERE IS a tendency among England's cricketers to consider that they should be immune from criticism. They regard themselves as the last word in professionalism. It would be interesting to know how they would try to reconcile these views with their performance on the fourth day at the Gabba, when much of their cricket was embarrassing, not to say shameful.

It is extraordinary that the same side which bowled and fielded so well last Friday when they took the first five Australian wickets for 178 and then batted admirably on Sunday, could have bowled as badly as they did yesterday and batted as unintelligently as they did when they continued their innings on the fourth morning.

When play ended on Saturday, Alec Stewart's side had 4 and it was imperative that they should bat on for as long as they could, for all day if necessary, to consolidate the excellent impression they had made on



HENRY BLOFELD  
IN BRISBANE

than a laughing stock. It is impossible to explain how players, at this level, can go from one extreme to the other with such rapidity.

Let us take the batting. England began the day at 299 for 4 and it was imperative that they should bat on for as long as they could, for all day if necessary, to consolidate the excellent impression they had made on

Sunday. They had acquired the psychological high ground and they had to hold on to it.

Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash had put on 59 overnight and although Thorpe had rather lost his touch from Sunday evening, they batted quietly through the first 10 overs. Thorpe then tried to hook a ball which came tough at head height. It was too high for the stroke and he was unable to keep it down.

This let in Dominic Cork, who is not a Test match No 7 but still knows how to bat. His job, above all, was to stay in with Ramprakash. In Australia's first innings, he had made the astonishing decision to bowl bouncers at Glenn McGrath, one of the three or four fastest bowlers in the world and a lot faster than Cork.

Maybe Cork thought McGrath had a short memory. If he did, he was wrong. With in moments the ball was hum-

ming around Cork's ears and McGrath's extended follow through took him to within a foot or two of Cork. There was much glaring and a certain amount of chatter. Cork would have been best advised to keep quiet.

He avoided the bouncers for a time before an idiotic bravado took over and he aimed a violent pull which gave a gentle catch mid-on. Robert Croft's sensible attempt to play McGrath short showed up Cork even more. Darren Gough also tried to stay there until he had an lbw decision which, on another day, might have gone in his favour.

Then came Alan Mullally, who had made Croft such a good partner at Cairns where they steered England to a one-wicket victory. His first ball was another short one from McGrath and, incredibly, he decided to pull it out of the ground and it ended up in mid-

on hands - and Ramprakash was left with Angus Fraser as his last partner.

Now, what were Cork and Mullally thinking about? Whatever it was - always assuming that it was something - it was not the best interest of the team.

And they claim to be so professional. Then followed bowling and fielding which confirmed our worst fears and England were made to look little short of a rabble by Michael Slater and Justin Langer.

As a result of having let themselves down with such a bump, England may even lose this match, but after Mike Atherton and Mark Butcher's splendid start in the evening, when they made 26 for no wicket, England could also win the spoils. A draw though, must be the most likely result, which is almost more than England deserve.

## THE GABBA SCOREBOARD

Fourth day, Australia won 205	
Australia - First innings 485 (A Holey 134, S R Waugh 112, A D Mullally 5-105)	
ENGLAND - First innings	
(Sunday, 299 for 4)	
M A Butcher c M Wagh ..... 116	
276 min, 246 balls, 16 fours	
M A Atherton c M Wagh b McGrath ..... 17	
17 min, 14 balls	
N Hensale c Healy b Kasprudzki ..... 59	
147 min, 99 balls, 10 fours	
"A J Stewart c Kasprudzki b McGrath ..... 8	
21 min, 168 balls, 7 fours	
G P Thorpe c Langer b McGrath ..... 77	
231 min, 168 balls, 7 fours	
M R Ramprakash not out ..... 69	
234 min, 166 balls, 6 fours	
D J Gough c McGrath b McGrath ..... 16	
16 min, 11 balls	
R O B Croft c Kasprudzki ..... 23	
51 min, 46 balls, 3 fours	
D Gough lbw b McGrath ..... 0	
24 min, 22 balls	
A D Mullally c Kasprudzki b McGrath ..... 0	
1 min, 1 ball	
A R C Fraser c M Wagh b McGrath ..... 1	
7 min, 7 balls	
Extras (b1 nb12) ..... 22	
Total (213 min, 128.2 overs) ..... 299	
ENGLAND - Second innings	
111 (Atherton 2-145 (Pussan) 3-168)	
14-4-38-0 (nb2) 15-0-58-1 (nb1)	
6-315 (Cork) 7-280 (Cork) 8-373 (Group)	
9-373 (Mullally) 10-373 (Fraser)	
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## Couch sees it all written in the stars

MATTHEW COUCH'S surprise run of successes to the UK Championship quarter-finals was written in the stars - or so he claims.









# SPORT

ROYLE'S ROAD TO NOWHERE P25 • ROSE FAILS HIS EXAMS P28



## Parkes says Walker wants the best

TONY PARKES yesterday ruled himself out of the running for the vacant post of Blackburn Rovers manager - and insisted that the club's owner, Jack Walker, would not accept anything but the best when it comes to appointing Roy Hodgson's successor.

Parkes, 28 years at Ewood Park, agreed to take temporary charge for the fourth time, after revealing that Hodgson was sacked following the team's 2-0 defeat at home to Southampton on Saturday. The club had earlier said that the former

FOOTBALL  
BY SIMON LANSLEY

Switzerland and Internazionale coach had left by mutual consent with Rovers at the bottom of the Premiership. However, Parkes admitted he had been taken by surprise by the speed of Hodgson's departure and warned his successor: "Jack Walker won't accept anything but the best for Blackburn Rovers."

"He is clearly very concerned over the position the club finds itself in. It's not a

good situation, but we've got to look forward."

With Hodgson paying with his job for the team's slump this season, Walker could look to a replacement with experience of Premiership management - such as Ron Atkinson, David Pleat or Howard Wilkinson - to pull Rovers out of the mire. However, the Scotland captain Colin Hendry, who joined Rangers from Blackburn this summer, has been linked with a return to the club he served with distinction during two lengthy spells.

Hendry said: "I've never hidden my ambition to become involved in coaching and management but really I was expecting something later in my career. There's no time like the present, though I don't know what Blackburn are thinking at this stage."

Blackburn's chief executive, John Williams, has indicated that the club are anxious to make a speedy appointment.

He said: "The search for a new manager is a priority, and we don't intend to drag our feet. Our fans and our players will be

expecting decisive action. We are very fortunate to have someone of Tony's ability to take the reins, albeit in the short term. This is a major appointment and must rate as one of the best jobs in the Premier League."

Parkes, confirming that the decision to change managers was entirely down to the club, said Hodgson wanted it to be known that he was sacked. "It's been a sad couple of days, for Roy was a top coach and well liked here," Parkes said. "He wanted more time, but

Jack Walker was obviously not prepared to give more time. I am not a better manager or coach than Roy Hodgson and in that respect, I have no right to expect to do any better."

"But for some reason, it sometimes makes a difference when there is a change, and with a little bit of luck, a few changes here and there and a different think tank, we will do our best to bring about a revival. Our season starts today, and I will be telling that to the players at the first training session. "I have no intention of

applying for the job and I think it's right that the fans and the players know that from the start. The club needs a higher-profile manager than me and a bigger name."

"I will look at the situation positively - that's always how I have tried to do it - and will be endeavouring to get us back to something like the championship-winning side we appeared to be just 12 months ago."

The Rangers vice-chairman, Donald Findlay, insisted that Hendry was happy at Ibrox, but

explained if any approach were made, they would consider the proposition carefully.

Findlay said: "I have no reason to suppose Colin Hendry is anything other than committed to us, but I could understand a sentimental return to Blackburn."

"The way we do business at Rangers is that we would speak to them. I would not really welcome the timing, though, because we have both the Parma game (tonight) and a League Cup final against St Johnstone on Sunday."

## Climbdown by Redknapp after transfer tirade

HARRY REDKNAPP last night apologised to West Ham's chief executive, Peter Storie, and the rest of the Upton Park board for his outburst over the transfer of Andy Impey to Leicester City.

The Hammers' manager attended a board meeting where clear-the-air talks were held. Storie said: "Harry has apologised for his comments. We have shaken hands and he has said he regrets the things he said yesterday."

"Harry was just concerned because he wanted to play the player in yesterday's game at Derby, but he realises now that he got too heated and said some unnecessary things."

"Harry accepts that this transfer is necessary and is now happy about the situation. I have had a very close working relationship with Harry for the past five years and we both want to carry on working closely together for the good of the club. We are all very happy this has been resolved, and everyone is friends again."

Storie had earlier criticised Redknapp and accused him of scaremongering because the Upton Park manager had said he feared that players like Rio Ferdinand may be sold.

"It is absolute nonsense," said Storie. "I think the truth of the matter is that he didn't like being overruled. We had to get a certain amount of money

in to balance the books and they are now balanced. Harry always knew we had to do this from the start of the season."

"Harry wears his heart on his sleeve and you have to put up with that at times, but it is disappointing. The worst comment he made was saying someone like me didn't know anything about football. That is insulting and it is nonsense."

"He is saying unless you've played professional football you know nothing about the game. But there have been top managers who have never played the game, and on the other side there have been top-level players who became bad managers. That is a personal insult on me and he doesn't know what he is talking about. It is nonsense."

Impey was due to have a medical last night and is expected to complete his transfer to Filbert Street today.

Despite Storie's words yesterday, Redknapp may yet be obliged to sell another player. There were reports last night that a second sale may be demanded by the board. The West Ham manager is unhappy about the position - and could be pushed to the brink if his bosses decide the identity of the next player to leave.

Redknapp was hoping to move out a fringe man - but he may have to let the striker John Hartson or the midfielder Eyal Berkovic go instead.



Scotland's Colin McRae steers his Subaru through the Esgair Dafydd stage of the NetWork Q Rally of Great Britain yesterday before his attempt to win the event for a record-equalling fourth time was ended by engine failure

**THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD**  
No. 3776 Tuesday 24 November by Aelred

**Monday's Solution**

**ACROSS**

- A capital feature of a monarchy had rejected (9)
- Not yet guilty of the non-scientific approach? (7)
- Go into egg production giving value to surprise (7)
- Some unwieldy federalism in the Principality? (8)
- Stupid in backing taunt by Edward (9)
- Group of soldiers containing fifty is not bright (5)
- How to get Croat to be a Thespian? (4-5)
- You'd barely see if you had this complaint? (9)
- The Spanish position of an English woman (5)
- English hand involved in price-fixing group, sending money (9)
- One bursts into tears as this person shouts (5)
- Tone down a method of painting (7)
- Country lines which could transport you? (7)
- Against graduates presently having something low to play on (13)
- What must be paid to keep one satisfied, in a conscientious way (9)
- I contended with climber (5)
- Get right into a lair in the forest (5)
- Origin of rainbows? (6, 4)
- Note on old girl keeping independence in coin-pound (9)

**DOWN**

- Move freely to involve one in expense (5)
- Jail unusual variety, mostly bad, gang of four (13)
- Put in bid about card, being soft (6-7)
- For a northerner the oldest is the most reliable (9)
- Initially expectant woman is proper with one soldier (9)
- Reprimand of singer involves king after time (7-2)
- In which you'd have to take steps to get male to pulp (3)
- Woman of meagre talent (5)
- Gas about everybody in such phone sessions (5)

## Rusedski can cash in on Agassi misfortune

GREG RUSEDSKI, looking businesslike in a pin-stripe suit yesterday as the substitute at the eight-man \$5.5m (£2.1m) ATP Tour Championship, may be pressed into action to replace the injured Andre Agassi in the same round-robin group as his fellow Briton Tim Henman.

Agassi, who strained his back in a fall while practising with Alex Corretja, of Spain, has been allowed to delay starting the tournament until tomorrow. "I joined the back, and it went into spasms, and it's creating all sorts of havoc," Agassi said. "I still remain hopeful, but I don't want to jeopardise or hurt myself more by playing if I'm not 100 per cent sure."

Rusedski, who retired after pulling a hamstring during his second round-robin match last year, missed qualification this time by only 30 world ranking points. Should Agassi withdraw, Rusedski would join Henman in the White Group along with the Chilean Marcelo Rios, ranked No 2, and Corretja, ranked No 5.

"I wouldn't be honest if I said I didn't want to play," Rusedski said. "You don't want anybody to be injured, but only eight players are able to make these points at the end of the year, and it would be a chance to get into the top 10."

Henman, who played one match as a substitute for the Spaniard Sergi Bruguera last year, makes his debut on merit tonight against Rios, the only player in the tournament who can deny Pete Sampras a record sixth consecutive year as the world No 1.

TENNIS  
BY JOHN ROBERTS  
in Hanover

Rios has won his two previous matches against Henman, both this year - in the semi-finals of the Lipton Championships on concrete in Florida in March 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 and in the second round of the Italian Open on clay in Rome in May, 6-3, 6-1 (the slow clay is Henman's worst surface).

Henman was the only player to take a set off Rios at the Lipton, where charter flights from Chile arrived to cheer their sporting hero to No 1 in the world when he defeated Agassi in the final. "Coming into the Lipton tournament I was scraping the barrel for results," said Henman. "This is going to be my best opportunity."

Emphasising that "there are no easy draws here", Henman added: "I think it is fair to admit I was happy to avoid Mr Sampras."

The American is in Red Group with Carlos Moya, of Spain, Karol Kucera, of Slovakia, and the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Sampras opens his campaign against Kafelnikov this afternoon, having won nine of their 11 previous matches.

Kafelnikov has been practising with Henman, having made up with the Briton after accusing him of a lack of respect for neglecting to apologise for net cords during their recent match in Paris. "I hit another net cord today," Henman said, "and put both hands up."

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DEPENDENT  
24 November 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

24 November 1998

# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The Hamiltons with their mascot: "We were certainly pariahs, if not hate figures," says Neil. "Less now than we used to be," says Christine

Howard Barlow

## Free the Tatton Two!

Neil and Christine Hamilton share a home with a cardboard cut-out of Lady Thatcher. They share a hatred of 'Sir Gormless Dopey' and 'the lying Egyptian', the men who buried them in five-star sleaze. And they share the absolute conviction that one day soon they will be liberated from 'the pit of hell' that is life as a media freak show

Neil and Christine Hamilton assure me that they are not really obsessed with their battle to clear their name - but I do not believe them. From the moment I enter their lovely home in deepest Cheshire, they talk of little else. This goes on for three hours without a break.

At one point, as Neil hammers home yet another point that he believes everyone else has got wrong, I cannot stop myself from letting out a strangled "Aargh!" This gets Christine's attention. "He's not really aggressive," she says. "I don't educate you in the spirit of criticism," says Neil. "It's just that it's annoying for us to hear YET again all of this," she says. "And when I've got a journalist captive, I have to exploit the opportunity," he adds.

There didn't seem a lot of point in small talk as I entered the Old Rectory in Nether Alderley. The hall is huge, and my immediate reaction was: "How can they afford this?" They claim they cannot at the moment and that they lie awake at night worrying about how to pay the bills. The hall is bordering on the weird, with its cardboard cut-out of Mrs Thatcher at the door and museum cases stuffed with taxidermy projects. One of the couches is draped in a tiger skin, complete with head. "Oh, that was a present from Neil," says Christine. She picks up a golf bag. "I'm sure this is politically incorrect."

So are they, of course. Neil Hamilton is the former Conservative Minister for Corporate Affairs who resigned over the cash-for-questions scandal in 1994. It was also revealed that he hadn't declared a stay at the Paris Ritz in 1987 as a guest of Mohammed Al Fayed. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey, found that he had taken cash from Fayed, and the parliamentary standards committee gave its backing to this finding. In 1996, Hamilton sued *The Guardian* newspaper for libel but withdrew at the last moment, pleading a lack of funds. In the election last May, he lost what had been the safe Tory seat of Tatton to the anti-sleaze candidate, Martin Bell. Since then, the Hamiltons have been regulars on the media circuit. He insists he is innocent and attacks a system in which he was presumed guilty without a proper trial. He is about to get that soon, as he is suing Al Fayed for libel. The case is being paid for via a fund set up by an old friend, Lord Harris of High Cross.

Gradually, it is dawning on everyone that the Hamiltons are simply refusing to go away. "I'm sure they thought I was dead meat and therefore could be wholly discounted. I'm a testament to the powers of Viagra!" says Neil. "Oh, really?" says Christine. "Then I began the fightback," says Neil, "and managed to push the lid off the coffin and to sit up straight."

They really do talk like this, in what at times almost amounts to a private language. Journalists are reptiles, for instance, and as such, are also paranoid and deranged. They are scathing about *The Guardian*, which they refer to as "the paranoid and deranged of Farringdon Road". Al Fayed is the "lying Egyptian", and much worse. But who, I wonder, was this Sir Gormless Dopey they refer to? This turns out to be Sir Gordon Downey. "Otherwise known as Tossopot!" cries Christine. "And you can print both of those!"

But aren't Neil and Christine hate figures themselves? "Well, we were certainly pariahs, if not hate figures," says Neil. "Less now than we used to be," says Christine. They believe that there has been a "sea change" in the attitude of the man-on-the-street. I say that most of the people I talked to before the interview referred to Neil as a sleazebag. They both sit up straight. "Yes, of course I have that reputation, and it's not tolerable," says Neil. "Let's face it, I have been completely destroyed as a public figure. And professionally, too."

And as a person? "Of course I have suffered. You mustn't draw the conclusion that I haven't suffered just because I am burning with indignation and determination to right a wrong. The fact that I am able to do it doesn't mean I am sublimating it or that it didn't happen. But we have to surmount it. Yes, I am angry and bitter. I am not twisted. We are in our fifth year of this. I am going to be 50 next birthday. We've been hunted. We've gone right down to the pit of hell, and now we are rising again."

Everyone wanted to know how they could afford to live in this house, I tell them, not to mention have a place in London as well. The question hung in the air for a moment.

Neil: That is a complete misconception. We both lost our incomes. We now survive in the very precarious world of freelance journalism.

Me: But you cannot be making that much money.

Neil: We are not making ends meet at the mo-

ment because we can't meet all our expenses. We had my settlement from the House of Commons. In the year after that, we were very much in demand as professional objects of curiosity. We were criticised for demanding fees for this, but how else were we to earn our living? People don't know what our asset position is, how big our mortgage is... so they have no factual basis upon which to draw any conclusions whatsoever. Not that that stops them...

Me: Well, you live the kind of life that people...

Neil: How do they know what sort of life we lead?

Christine: They don't know, for instance, how we have pared our expenses down. They don't know that we have cancelled every single newspaper.

Neil: *The Spectator* and *Living Marxism* are the only publications I subscribe to. You think I'm joking, but it's true!

Christine: I understand people thinking that

because we are, after all, living in an enormous house. But we sat down after the election and said: right, no income, we are going to cut our spending. What is essential? The mortgage, the milk bill, the gas bill, the this, the that. Everything else: out. I haven't been on a woman's spend since the election. I've bought the odd pair of tights, because you have to. Birthday cards! I don't buy them any more. I recycle. Cut them up, buy some coloured card...

Me: Did it ever occur to you to go and get a job?

Neil: It's occurred to me lots of times. There are lots of jobs I'd like but they are not on offer because I'm regarded as Mr Sleaze. The fact of the matter is that until I destroy Al Fayed and his allegations, I am effectively unemployable except in the media. It is the only profession that isn't bothered in the slightest about stains on your character.

The media seems to take up a huge amount of their time. Finding a time to meet requires cross-checking with the *Radio Times* listings, as Christine is on that show, Neil on another. Then, of course, Neil has to go to Wales to do something on gardening for the *Daily Telegraph*. There was a trip to America to speak at a conference. This week, they were off to Manchester to appear on some talk show with the Hollywood star, George Hamilton. Christine's *Book of British Battles* is just out in paperback. She asks whether I've read it. I note that she is much in demand. "Yes, Christine is much more media-genic," says Neil. She smiles. "I get some lovely fan mail from people. Apparently, I am a gay icon at the moment, which is quite nice."

"Like Barbara Cartland," Neil adds.

Well, not quite, but the similarities are growing. It seems that Christine is writing a novel. Why is this? Had she always wanted to be a novelist?

Christine: Heavens, no! I've been 100 per cent occupied with Neil.

Me: But why then?

Christine: Well, the *Battles* was Neil's idea. He said I must capitalise on this image that I've got

Neil: I'm the marketing man. Oh yes. Why do you think we've had such a successful sales pitch so far?

Christine: We were in the position of being Dinkies - double income, no kids - and suddenly we were Ninkies. So I did the *Battles*. What was your question?

Me: Isn't it painful to write a novel?

Christine: No, it's fun! I'm basing it on the experiences of a friend of mine. It's sort of the life and loves of a young man between Cambridge and his mid-50s.

Neil: I'm writing a novel, too. It's going to be called *The Media Assassins*. I'm not kidding.

Christine: Mine's going to have more sex in it. Neil: She knows more about it than I do.

Christine: It's much more fun on a Monday morning to be writing a sex scene than going to the House of Commons.

Neil: I think, on the whole, women's imaginations are more lurid. Mine is going to be about the interconnecting circles of business, media and politics. I've decided on the title, and that will determine the nature of the book. We can get our own back on the gargoyles of Farringdon Road in some way.

Christine: Neil is also writing a book about what's happened.

Neil: I don't think it will be done until after the Al Fayed case is done. But yes, I'm going to write my story.

The Hamiltons truly believe that they are innocent victims. They do not even regret staying at the Ritz. "I can't regret doing something that was perfectly legitimate," says Neil. But people do paint you as someone who loves a freebie, I say. "We behaved like journalists, you are quite right!" he says. But, of course, they were not journalists but an MP and his secretary. They had gone to the Paris Ritz in order to visit the Windsor villa, which Al Fayed had just taken over. They say that they thought it would take a day but in the end they were there for five.

They now believe that they were kept there

Continued on page 8

INSIDE	Letters	2-3	Obituaries	6-7	Health	12-13	Radio	19
	Leaders	3	Features	8-9	Media	14-15	Satellite TV	19
	Comment	4-5	Arts	10-11	Listings	17-18	Today's TV	20
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

## Iraq: time to think

Sir: For the moment, a very precarious peace continues in the wake of Saddam Hussein's agreement to restore the weapons inspectorate in Iraq. The question we should like to raise as bishops of the Anglican church is whether this hiatus can be used for looking at some wider moral and strategic issues.

We share entirely the concern of the British and American administrations to stop or limit the damage being done by Saddam Hussein to the welfare of his people and the security of the region. But we hope to see some sharper definition of what precisely the allied powers mean to achieve for Iraq and the region before our government embarks on a course that will undoubtedly involve more civilian casualties and more erosion of the bases of civil society in Iraq.

There is a general will in the international community to see the excesses of the present Iraqi government reined in, and that will has been and still is expressed in terms of a threat of military force. Yet the Security Council as a whole has reluctantly and rightly not endorsed specific plans for military action: we believe this is significant.

Two issues cry out for attention. What looks like a pattern of "brinkmanship" by Saddam Hussein suggests that the present system of weapons inspection is vulnerable to being used by him as a tool to embarrass and confuse the Western powers. Can anything be done to change this? If the inspectorate is seen simply as a reminder of allied power in the region, it will continue to invite this frustrating and dangerous response. What can be done to make the system a recognisable tool of regional security?

Then there is the painful issue of sanctions. Consensus is growing that the existing sanctions are ineffective in weakening the regime and bear intolerably on the ordinary population of Iraq. Does the continuance of sanctions in their present form present Saddam Hussein with another weapon to be turned against the Western powers, and how long can the burden on the ordinary Iraqi be maintained without permanent damage to Iraq's life - quite apart from the humanitarian anxieties the present policy should be arousing? Under what conditions can sanctions be reviewed or ended?

We do not minimise the difficulties faced by the international community and by our own government, and we are grateful for the skill and patience shown by so many in handling this renewed threat. Our concern is that the situation should not continue to drift from crisis to crisis, and that the opportunity should be taken of urging some detailed consideration of our aims in and for the region.

Many voices have been raised in recent days in the international community asking for just this consideration. In the name of all our brothers and sisters in the region - Christians, Muslims and others - we wish to add our own voices to this demand, before there is further terror and bloodshed.

ROWAN WILLIAMS  
Bishop of Monmouth  
PETER PRICE  
Bishop of Kingston  
ALWYN RICE-JONES  
Archbishop of Wales  
BARRY ROGERSON  
Bishop of Bristol  
COLIN BENNETTS  
Bishop of Coventry  
CHRISTOPHER MAYFIELD  
Bishop of Manchester  
CHRISTOPHER HERBERT  
Bishop of St Albans  
PETER SELBY  
Bishop of Worcester  
BARRY MORGAN  
Bishop of Bangor  
THOMAS DAVIES  
Bishop of Llandaff  
HUW JONES  
Bishop of St David's  
JOHN AUSTIN  
Bishop of Aston  
WILFRED WOOD  
Bishop of Croydon  
RICHARD LLEWELLYN

Bishop of Dover  
JOHN HIND  
Bishop in Europe  
HENRY SCRIVEN  
Assistant Bishop in Europe  
GRAHAM JONES  
Bishop of St Germans  
MICHAEL DOE  
Bishop of Swindon  
GRAHAM DOW  
Bishop of Willesden  
London SW15

## Fixing the lists

Sir: It would have helped if Tony Blair ("If control freakery means strong leadership, then I plead guilty", 20 November) had at least acknowledged that democratic elections are, and always have been, about the people choosing individual representatives as well as preferred parties.

For most voters in Britain this century, choosing the right party has had priority. This does not mean that the antecedents, character, personality, opinions and principles of individual candidates are seen as irrelevant. Would Mr Blair have us believe that his own enormous political success owes everything to his new Labour doctrines, and nothing to his personal qualities?

A closed-list PR system fails to strike a balance between the complementary tasks of choosing individuals and choosing parties.

The next step is to turn the searchlight on those shadowy figures who, as members of selection panels, or by other means, choose candidates in the various elections.

Who are these people? How do they get their jobs? What is the nature of their relationship with London-based party bosses? J WILFRED ATTENBOROUGH  
Lincoln

Sir: Voltaire said, in defence of free speech: "I detest what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." With regard to the House of Lords and closed lists, I find myself adapting Voltaire's

view. I love what they say, but I detest that they have the right to say it.  
W DAVIES  
Burry Port, Dyfed

## Christian socialists

Sir: Paul Valley ("In the name of the Father and the Holy Spirit", 17 November) may be right that Tony Blair is influenced by Roman Catholic social teaching. He is also influenced by the Chief Rabbi and American communists. It is not surprising if Blair as an Anglican praised the fine Roman Catholic document *The Common Good* - so did Archbishop Carey.

But Valley neglects the influence of the Christian Socialist tradition on Blair. Blair has paid frequent tributes to this. He called Archbishop William Temple "perhaps Britain's greatest Christian Socialist". In 1942 in *Christianity and Social Order* Temple advocated many of the policies which Valley thinks are so distinctively Roman Catholic - such as the minimum wage, devolution, the state as a community of communities, co-partnership in industry. These had been a feature of Christian Socialist teaching in England since the 1890s, as I have documented in my new book on Christian Socialism.

Yet when the Anglican bishops at the 1888 Lambeth Conference

Sir: The case concerning the extradition of David Shayler raises a question about recruitment standards employed by our Security Services. Harold Macmillan said that this country had the best Security Services in the world, but unfortunately they belonged to the Russians. As Russia has less use for such services these days, could we not contract them out, as seems likely with the Queen's Flight? J E WHITAKER  
Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan

were giving a blessing to socialism as close to the precepts of Christ, the papacy was denouncing it. Until the 1980s much of the British Roman Catholic leadership actively opposed the welfare state. The fact is that the social teaching and practice of all the churches is a good deal more varied and ambiguous than Valley seems to admit.  
CANON ALAN WILKINSON  
Portsmouth

## Rape and race

Sir: Trevor Phillips rightly questions the quality of research of Channel Four's recent *Dispatches* programme on teenage gang rape ("The grave danger of turning rape into a racial issue", 19 November).

A total of 14 cases, involving 79 boys over two years, drawn from anecdotal evidence and personal recollection, is hardly a strong foundation for making the dubious and offensive claim that gang rape among young people is almost exclusively a black problem.

Official prison service figures paint a rather different picture. While 9 per cent of the white prison population is there for rape and other sexual offences, only 7 per cent of the black prison population is there for the same offences. Indeed, official figures show that there is no basis for the commonly held assumption that black people

are more likely to commit crime than white people.

If we are to reduce rape, we need to combat distorted young male attitudes towards women, not start drawing conclusions of racial differences on dubious research.  
HELEN EDWARDS  
London SW9

## No right to sneer

Sir: Your editorial "Don't debate the fight for human rights" (20 November) was arrogant in its rejection of UN criticism of the UK human rights record.

Dismissing legitimate criticism in this way draws an imaginary distinction between wholesome, democratic Britain (where torture just doesn't happen) and evil "police states", located far away in the Third World. Whilst such abuses are certainly less frequent here, for which I am profoundly thankful, the difference is one of degree and not of kind. To lose a family member in violent circumstances is no less unbearable in Britain than anywhere else.

Finally, your rejection of the criticism of rising British prison populations - "patently a matter of domestic criminal justice policy" - is chillingly identical with the excuses used by torturing states throughout the world. If British prison policies are defensible, we have every responsibility to do

to use, so that no one need go hungry or cold again. Why 350 years on, are we waiting?  
RICHARD FROST  
Applby, Cumbria

Sir: Can it be a simple coincidence that the EU lifts the ban on British beef at the same time that Gordon Brown allegedly agrees to harmonise British taxes with those in the EU?  
MONIMA SIDDIQUE  
London SW10

Enlisted in our cause 'gainst King John Major. Do not shrug off the people's cunning strength - You may need their support again ere long. Tony: Good Doctor Jack, you're right, as usual! Your common sense shines through once more and melts.

The kingly hubris that comes with a throne Like morning mist that shrouds you tall Big Ben. Without your sound advice I'd be alone. Knowing human nature as you do There's no one in the Cabinet quite like you! Cunningham: That's true. I am not Scottish, Welsh or gay.

There is not one of them the same can say! Enter a messenger, bursting with a message. Messenger: My liege, grave news from down the road I bring.

The House of Lords doth flout my Lord the King! The brave new laws which he would seek to pass Have been kicked out upon their very arse By this pack of rogues and noble fools. These products of the shires and public schools! Tony: Yes, yes, good messenger, thank you for this.

But next time you arrive, just state the news. There is no need to overland your message With commentary and footnotes, and such stuff The plain unvarnished truth is quite enough. Is there more to come?

Messenger: There is, my Lord. There stands outside a caller, Bragg by name. Who on your ear doth seem to have some claim. Tony: My well-loved Melvyn! Lord Bragg of Media! That walking science encyclopedia! Arts pundit, millionaire and literary axeman! On Mondays now replaced by pushy Paxman... Dear Melvyn, dear Lord Bragg! Come speak to me! Enter Billy Bragg, a left-leaning minstrel. Bragg: A rather different figure you do see, One who hates the name of Lord and would not stoop.

To take a title, as our Melvyn did, And bring disgrace upon the name of Bragg. Tony: Well, that's as maybe. What do you crave? Bragg: To send all peers to an early grave! More of this blood-curdling stuff tomorrow!

## Scotland for ever

Sir: What exactly is Ian Jack's point about "long-established countries such as England, France and Spain" in his article on the new Museum of Scotland (21 November)? His visit should have taught him that the country of his birth was among the first to assume some of the characteristics by which we define nation states. Scottish unity predates the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, which puts it long before France (Louis XI's conquest of Burgundy in 1477) or Spain (the union of Aragon and Castile in 1479).

Argument about the precedence of England or Scotland in this respect would be fatuous.

It won't do to refer to Scotland as "a country which not so long ago was thought of as a region of the United Kingdom". Thought of by whom? Few Scots have ever seen their native land in such a light. To talk about regions is to betray an Anglocentric conception of the Union, whose most fervent Scottish supporters, certainly from Sir Walter Scott onwards, have characteristically been committed with equal zeal to the defence of Scottish institutions, Scottish traditions, and Scottish nationhood.  
ALAN MACCOLL  
St Andrews, Fife

Sir: In the run-up to the Scottish Parliament elections next May, the UK Treasury is trying to demonstrate that Scotland receives a fiscal subsidy from England; the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) vehemently denies this.

The Treasury's latest document "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland" suggests that against the background of more or less identical GDP per head in Scotland as compared to England, public spending in Scotland is some 1.6 higher than in England. The SNP disputes these public spending figures.

But what does the comparative position look like with regard to frontline public services, such as health and education? My firm's calculations, based on recent figures from the relevant government departments, suggest that Scotland may be enjoying significantly better public services than in England. For example, average class sizes in England are some 1/5 higher than in Scotland, whilst hospital waiting lists in England (proportionate to population) are around 50 per cent higher than in Scotland.

Protagonists for the Scottish Parliament elections may want to ponder the above figures. Meanwhile, Westminster Conservatives (who poured money into Scotland for 18 years to achieve well-funded public services) may wonder why they got so little electoral reward in Scotland in May 1997. The Government may care to note the warning.  
M G FITZPATRICK  
Head of Economics  
Chantrey Vellacott DFK  
London E14

Lost and found  
Sir: So the Government has found \$40bn. Tony Blair writes on your leader page (20 November). How fortunate, and just before Christmas too.

I wonder where it was found? If it is not too far away it might be worth the bus fare to go and see if an odd thousand or two has been overlooked; it is easily done in the excitement of the moment. If I do go I had better remember to take a plastic bag or something.

I wonder what \$40,000,000,000.00 looks like, in one lump so to speak; a bit surprising that nobody else noticed it. Just as well really, it might have fallen into wrong hands. Of course if anybody else had found it they should really have taken it to a police station I suppose, after all somebody must have lost it.  
K G SPOUSE  
Middle Quoditch, Devon

## King Tony and that cunning man, Jack Cunningham

SOME READERS have written to me requesting that we should have no more of the recently rediscovered Shakespearean tragedy *The History of King Tony*, or *New Labour's Love Lost*. Luckily, they are far outnumbered by the many who have written in begging for more of this lost masterpiece, so here we go again today with more tales of King Tony's rough ride upon the throne.

The scene is King Tony's court at the Palace of Westminster where every day he gives audience to men likely to agree with him. The King is deep in talk with Lord "Doctor" Jack Cunningham. King Tony: How goes the world, my Lord Chief High Enabler?

Cunningham: Why, fair as can be expected by, my Lord.

The Cabinet of mighty minds you've picked To run this blessed land of ours, Great Britain. And turn it into paradise on earth, Have caused me no great anxiety of late. Tony: You mean, they've toed the line and held their peace?

Cunningham: They have, my Lord. Except for Lord John Prescott,

Who says he has devised a cunning method Of measuring the worth of government. And also him they call Sir Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster-General at your royal command. Who has so much money stuffed away abroad, He often fails to call to mind the date, The place, and the amount of his deposit.

Tony: Poor, poor Sir Geoffrey. When I knew him first,

His memory was sharp and clear as ice. And now, you say, it starts to fade and go? Cunningham: It does, my liege, though quite selectively.

And now the crowds do shout out in the streets

That Robinson himself should fade and go as well. Tony: I give not a fig for what the crowds do say! A tabloid rabble, sent by their Feet Street masters To mouth such slogans as they feed them with.

What care I what the people think or say Except to do the very opposite?

Cunningham: You cared a lot when we were not in power.

It was the people brought us victory



MILES KINGSTON

King Tony: 'There's no one in the Cabinet quite like you!' Cunningham: 'That's true. I am not Scottish, Welsh or gay'

Cunningham: You cared a lot when we were not in power. It was the people brought us victory

JP 11/25/98



JP 11/25/98

SUNDAY REVIEW  
24 November 1998

THE TUESDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 24 November 1998

LEADERS AND COMMENT/3

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# THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

## Modern democracy does not need this royal performance

TODAY THE "Queen's Most Excellent Majesty" presents "Her" government's legislative programme for the new parliamentary year. Amidst the pomp and flummery, fancy dress and walking backwards, she will put her voice to the elected government's bills. But we should pause to ask a simple question: why?

Britain is, of course, not actually a democracy but a constitutional monarchy. Despite one revolution and four and a half centuries of gradual evolution, the Queen remains head of state. As such, she will not only read out today's speech but must give her assent if any bill is to become law. This is either a quaint, but irrelevant tradition or an influential and important role. Either way the Queen should give it up.

If our constitution is to evolve a little further towards democracy, her Majesty should be relieved of these tasks. Bills and laws should be the product of a democratic process: voters express their views on party manifestos and so choose their representatives for the Commons to make their law.

The Queen and the Government, we were told, are aware of this problem; today we will see some minor changes. A lady in waiting and one or two gentlemen ushers will sit out today's show. Silver, though not Gold, Stick in Waiting will stay away. But such tinkering does nothing to modernise the constitution and encourage voters to take an interest in what their representatives are doing. Ironically the Queen will read out legislative proposals that will significantly change the British constitution: reform of the House of Lords, a new electoral system for European elections and changes to the legal system. As the constitution modernises around her, the Queen's role looks increasingly anachronistic. The public needs to know that the government is not hers but ours. Government should be responsible to the citizens and voters of the country, not to the Queen and her subjects.

So who should read out the Government's proposals? The obvious candidate would be the Prime Minister: it is he, after all, who has ultimate control of the speech's contents. Would this be seen as partisan: a party, rather than a government, document? Would it be indistinguishable from party conference, or election stump table thumping? Probably so; but, after all, it is the programme of a political party, so why pretend otherwise? Since it is Tony Blair's Government proposing laws, why not have Tony Blair reading the speech? If that were seen as too presidential - the American President is entrusted to present his own State of the Union address - then the Speaker of the House of Commons could take on the task. Either way the Queen should add lib a line today: "My Government can do without this royal performance."



## A sickly nation - but there are signs of hope

THE PATTERN is always the same: just when things could not get any worse, they do. The murder at the weekend of one of the most popular members of the Russian parliament is a vivid reminder of the lunacy of the country today. Galina Starovoitova, assassinated outside her home in St Petersburg, was one of the most respected politicians in Russia. Her death is a historic loss. The Russian prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, yesterday promised a new crackdown on crime and extremism. But few Russians will believe him. Crackdowns on crime have become almost as familiar as violent crime itself.

Meanwhile, President Boris Yeltsin is back in his invalid's chair. He is still at the centre of power, but politically and physically weakened. In the rest of the country,

too, there are yet more signals of everything that is going wrong. In the south, a pro-Communist, anti-Semitic bloc has just won an election. In the Urals, a local Communist Party leader has ordered the erection of a statue of Stalin in a local school.

But, despite all the dark headlines, Russia is not yet a definitively lost cause. It will not receive much in the way of Western loans for some time to come. But Russia's salvation must come from inside, not outside the country.

Russia is still in the political intensive care ward. But the prognosis is marginally better than it was a few years ago. For the younger generation, at least, new opportunities are there. Too many people now hope for something better - and know that there is no simple way out.

Starovoitova's murder will not be the last of such horrific acts. Seen in a historic perspective, however, it may come to be regarded as one of the final lashes of the old totalitarian monster's tail, and not the first stirrings of a new nightmare.

## Out of joint

THANK HEAVENS for the Europeans over BSE. Not for the belated and still too tentative lifting of the beef ban yesterday. But without the constant pressure of the Commission we wouldn't have carried out half the measures we have now taken, and in the process ended with the cleanest, best-regulated livestock in Europe.

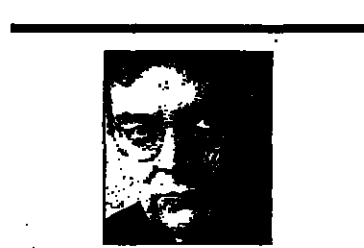
Praise, too, to the consumers, who have reacted to BSE by reordering their diets in a more healthy fashion. Which is precisely the point that the British Government still does not seem to have grasped from this crisis. Food is not about politics, it is about priorities. The food bill which was supposed to have been part of the Queen's speech has been dropped. Even after all we have been through, the Government has kept food hygiene under the wing of the Ministry of Agriculture. Maybe we should hand it over to Brussels.

# Dear Mr Hague, have you thought about becoming a daring radical?

IF YOU are feeling blue this morning, cheer yourself up by contemplating the shadow cabinet in session. William Hague is in the chair, around him, wearing expressions ranging from indifference to loathing, sit his colleagues: Howard, Fowler, Ancram, Redwood, Maude, Widdicombe, Viscount Cranborne and a whole host of bit-part players of whom you have never heard.

It is a part-comic, part-monstrous image out of Dickens as illustrated by Flax: an assembly of Smallweeds, Weggs, Heeps, Dedlocks, Pecksniffs and - in the case of Anne Widdicombe - Havishams. In the background a series of amorphous squiggles suggests a greening shadow Cultural Secretary here, a vacuous shadow Treasury Secretary there. And to think this is the body that will have been deliberating about how Mr Hague should respond, later today, to the Queen's Speech.

You see? You may have money worries, health problems or 'issues' in your relationship, but fate has at least not singled you out in the same way that it has William Hague and played that savage trick of granting the greatest desire in the worst possible way. Some readers may recall a short story called *The Monkey's Paw*, which depicts Mr Hague's situation exactly: a woman loses her son, who has fallen into a combine harvester and been radically rearranged. So, when she is given a magic Oriental charm (the eponymous simian body part), she wishes to have her beloved boy return to her from the dead. It is only when she hears the



DAVID AARONOVITCH

You may have money worries or health problems, but fate hasn't singled you out the way it has William

can only begin by arguing how the job should not be done. As far as I can see, Tory strategy in the last few months has been aimed at telling the electorate that New Labour is almost as bad as the Conservatives were when they were in power. Over "closed lists", the Tories have attempted to invoke the spectre of "Tony's cronies", deploying their hereditary peers to defeat the Commons. In the case of Geoffrey Robinson's seemingly minute historic infractions of company law, the Conservatives have again mounted the crony attack, calling for a ministerial resignation.

My substantial objection to this line of attack is that it is entirely counter-productive. Insofar as it works at all, it does so by increasing general cynicism about politicians. Memories of Neil Hamilton and the Scott Report

are very unlikely to fade so rapidly that the Conservatives become the beneficiaries of public disgust. And the backwoods, backward votes in the Lords serve mostly to remind everyone of how profoundly unmodern the Tories are.

Nor will opposing for opposition's sake go down too well. When it was reported at the weekend that the NHS intended to set up machinery to pursue insurance companies for some of the cost of patching up accident victims (surely a measure originating in Tory times?), the Conservative chairman, Michael Ancram, commented that the resulting increased premiums would be "regarded as another attack on rural interests at a time when the rural economy is in trouble". I'm sorry, Michael, have I missed something here? Most motorists live in towns and cities (where they already pay higher premiums in case of theft or damage), so how can this possibly be seen as part of the fictional urban war against the countryside? Not many votes there, then.

William, William, William. Drop all this sub-Telegraph foggy stuff and consult your own youthful instincts. Read Steve Richards' excellent article on this page yesterday and consider what won't have been in the Queen's Speech that ought to have been. There is nothing whatsoever to prevent the Conservatives from becoming - say - the party of freedom of information. It is, after all, your claim to be starting afresh, William, so lay into Jack Straw and enjoy the editorials here and in *The Guardian*, applauding your radicalism.

While you're about it, why not demand that the Government legislate for the creation of a fully elected second chamber to replace the Lords, place a draft bill before the House to that effect and then campaign for it? What would be so un-Tory about that? You could insist on some form of PR in voting for local councils, to help do away with Labour rotten boroughs. And watch those Liberal Democrats waver!

Require that the referendum on the single currency (which will come into being within weeks) should be held in this session and not put off for centuries to suit the Government. Join with Lord Archer in deprecating the absence of a Transport Bill in this session and in advocating radical plans to ease congestion in our cities. Amaze the Greens!

Attack the Government for the recruitment crisis in schools and tell it that, while you agree with its emphasis on standards, these cannot be delivered without extra payment to good teachers. Forget all the minority stuff about selection and assisted places, most parents are concerned about who stands up in that classroom - so provide a costed plan showing how everything can be paid for by twiddling with VAT or mortgage tax relief. After all, you won't have to deal with the aftermath.

Remember, above all, the words of Danton: "Laudace, l'audace, toujours l'audace." His second (and final) great saying, it must be admitted was "show my head to the crowd. It is well worth seeing". Which at least, William, is something.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"More and more people in Germany are saying 'We only want to eat meat from happy cows'."  
Helga Kuhn, Association of Consumer Organisations

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
"An open mind should be open at both ends, like the foodpipe, and have a capacity for excretion as well as intake."  
Northrop Frye, Canadian literary critic

**QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY**

"I personally stay away from natural foods. At my age I need all the preservatives I can get."

George Burns

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WE BACKED down from our dramatic show of force after Iraq's UN representative handed the UN Secretary General a letter promising full and unconditional cooperation. But the ink was barely dry on the paper before Iraq reneged, withholding documents requested by chief inspector, Richard Butler. That this would happen was surely no surprise, though the speed with which it did was admittedly breathtaking. No one here (or in Iraq)

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Comment on Iraq's latest confrontation with the United Nations over arms inspections

doubts that President Clinton would rather have teeth pulled than launch an attack. The question is, though, whether even this president can avoid military action, with Iraq refusing to play along for as much as one week. *The Washington Times*

YOU CAN'T treat a nation of 20 million with a ruthless dictator as an occupied country (which is what freedom of inspection for UNSCOM implies) if you are not willing to commit troops and occupy it. The radical solution is to stop trying. Bomb the stuffing out of Iraq's military the next time Saddam stages a crisis, but accept that the result will be that UNSCOM will never be allowed to operate in the country again (bombing alone cannot bring Saddam to his knees). *Jordan Times*

THE BUSH and Clinton administrations' confrontations with Hussein are reminiscent of JFK's confrontations with Castro: they taunted, they put all their energy into vanquishing and still couldn't catch. In our obsession to get rid of the biological weapons, we need to start over in our strategy. With or without bombing, the cycle needs to be broken, and a more politically sustainable effort undertaken while there is time. *The Washington Post*

TO ANNOUNCE a policy without exhaustively considering how it can be made to work is worse than an empty gesture: it is a dangerous one. It sets in motion pressures to act, that can give rise to the most hare-brained schemes. The United States could find itself headed toward a costly blunder if it doesn't stop to assess rationally and fully the implications of its hastily conceived new policy towards Iraq. *Los Angeles Times*



## PANDORA

THE ROMANCE between Princess Anne's son, Peter Phillips (pictured), and the 23-year-old American heiress Elizabeth Lorio has been widely publicised. But does the Queen know that the father of her grandson's girlfriend heads a drug company that has received the largest criminal fine - \$10m in total - ever handed against a major US pharmaceutical company? According to the US press, Theodore Lorio's company, Copley Pharmaceuticals, is currently being blamed for the deaths of 280 people linked to the use of a drug called a Copley-manufactured drug used in the treatment of asthma. Mr Lorio told the *New York Daily News*, "Those lawsuits have to be looked at on a case-by-case basis", and said that, although the Lorios and the Windsors haven't actually met, Phillips's "family has been very hospitable and kind".

LEGENDARY WELSH actor and documentary filmmaker Kenneth Griffith received an award from a former leading light of Britain's neo-Nazi movement last Sunday. The award ceremony took place at the London Irish Club in Belgrave in honour of Griffith's film about the Irish Republican hero Michael Collins (which eventually made its debut in 1994, after being banned for more than 20 years). The Secretary of the Michael Collins Association, who made the award to Griffith, is one Mike Griffin, a former Mosleyite who ran the League of St George, an extreme right-wing group, in the Seventies and Eighties. Despite the man's somewhat unusual past, Kenneth Griffith, however, was happy to accept. In a spirit of understanding, he told Pandora: "All I can say is that [Griffin and the Michael Collins Association] have been perfectly pleasant and supportive to me. Many people have done things they regret in the past. For instance, I myself once stole some stamps."

THE LATEST joke being bandied around the Blair Cabinet features Lord Chancellor Derry Irvine meeting former Ginger Spice, Geri Halliwell. Her enthusiasm for her new job as a UN Goodwill Ambassador sweeps Derry off his feet. "Wonderful, wonderful," he exudes on hearing all her plans. "The next time I'm in New York," says Derry, "we should get together and I'll introduce you to Kofi Annan. Kofi Annan's

marvellous." But Geri says: "I don't like that Starbuck stuff. I just drink decaf."

PANDORA WAS impressed to hear of old-school comedian Lennie Bennett's reaction to an invitation to speak at the Press Golf Society's annual dinner, held last week. The Secretary of the Society, a Bennett fan and a neighbour in Windsor, rang Lennie and told him about the impending event. Lennie, a keen golfer, said that he would naturally be delighted, "but you know I am a professional." "Of course," said the Secretary, promising that the Society would have a chauffeur limo pick the veteran comic up, drive him to the dinner in Pall Mall, and drive him home afterwards - with £500 cash in his hand. "I don't get out of bed for 500 quid!" exclaimed Bennett, and slammed the phone down. Pandora hopes the charming comic gets plenty of opportunity to catch up on his sleep in future.

IT'S NO secret that Harvey Keitel was scheduled to appear in Stanley Kubrick's long-awaited film *Eyes Wide Shut*, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman but, for some reason, was mysteriously replaced by actor/director Sydney Pollack. Now a spurious rumour is making the rounds claiming that Keitel became a little too ardent in a sex scene with Kidman, leading to her demanding that Kubrick sack him. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Pandora knows that Keitel grew steadily impatient waiting for days in the Savoy Hotel for perfectionist Kubrick to call him to the set. He finally packed his bags and went back to the States, where he had another film commitment.

IN WOODY Allen's soon-to-be released film *Celebrity*, Kenneth Branagh can be seen flopping into bed with both Melanie Griffith and, on another occasion, *Titanic* star Leonardo DiCaprio. Branagh plays a Woody-like neurotic New York stud with an American accent. In a recent interview the actor told *USA Today*: "I was shocked myself when I saw it." However, Branagh insists that he wasn't consciously parodying his director. "Woody and I didn't talk about the character... I avoided wearing glasses or other things like Woody, but it came out the way it did. I have too much respect for him to satirise him." Gosh.

## Ah, the joys of binge drinking



TERENCE BLACKER

What memories - puke on the floor, stripping vicars and naked coppers doing the hokey-cokey

SUDDENLY, OVER the past few weeks, the world has discovered that the English have a special relationship with the bottle. There have been TV documentaries studying the unlovely private life of the English lush. An Italian sports paper has denounced the Englishman's "habit of raising your right arm too often"; a bit rich, some might have thought, coming from the land of Il Duce. Now the Health Education Authority has discovered that something called "binge drinking" is all the rage, and that 30 per cent of adults in this country regard getting drunk as "part of the English way of life".

Binge drinking. How that phrase brings back memories! The cab-baggy smell of dodgy cooking coming from the kitchen. Puke on the floor in the Gitanes. Three naked policemen doing the hokey-cokey with candles up their bottoms. Stripping vicars, sex under the tables, the man who urinated on a guitarist because he wouldn't play "Feelings".

As it happens, I was not the guitarist in question (although it was my guitar), but I was familiar with the scene, since I played once or twice a week at the same restaurant,

which was to binge drinking what Wembley is to football. The food was cheap, the music loud (but great), and the candlelit basement where most action took place was so dark that virtually any excess was achievable. Bewildered foreign tourists who happened upon the place before the parties got underway discovered more about "the English way of life" than they may have wished to know.

Providing a thumping soundtrack for the orgy, the musicians were in the thick of the fray. Punters, even when slightly sober, tend to ignore you, confiding the most grisly intimacies between numbers as if the man, resting on his guitar a few feet away, is simply a music machine, a live juke-box. If the Health Education Council booze specialists want to know the truth about the English and drink, they should grab a Gibson and start learning "The Boxer" right now.

Any musician, waiter or stripper-gram operative who worked at this joint quickly learnt that every party (hen, stag, Christmas, office or, most feared of all, a celebratory outing from the Chelsea Police Station) followed an identical pattern. Within moments of arrival, to the gurgles, lilting sounds of "Waterloo Sunset", "Take It Easy" and "I'm on Fire", the punters would go about the business of forgetting who they were as quickly as possible, downing liquor, mixing their drinks with self-conscious bonhomie.

By Phase Two ("Love Minus Zero", "Lay Down Sally", "Handyman"), the volume of conversation

will have increased exponentially. One solitary drinker will have already drifted off into a melancholy, alcoholic haze; "Country Roads", he shouts now and then. The office randies are making their move. Someone tells an eye-wateringly filthy joke. There's some exploratory bun-bouncing, after which bonding takes place with guests at neighbouring tables. (The foreign tourists quite often leave at this stage.)

By the end of the meal, chairs have been kicked over, some couples are dancing wildly, while the drinkers start to thump the tables and sing along to the usual Phase Three songs ("I Saw Her Standing There", "Johnny B Goode", "Hi-Fi Silver Lining").

The manic period rarely lasts long, giving way to swaying, antheric, tearful Phase Four ("Wonderful Tonight", "You've Got a Friend" and, oh, all right, "Country Roads"). It is at this point when various para-sexual activities may take place. A stripper might arrive, colleagues grind and grope on the dancefloor. The more adventurous find a dark corner to achieve some sort of ghastly, furtive release. The

policemen take their clothes off. One by one, the drinkers go quiet. Someone's in the lavatory being sick.

Then, whom. It might be someone going too far, or someone else saying what he has been wanting to say all year. The bill might have arrived. In a matter of seconds, the atmosphere changes. There's a bleary squabble over who ate what. By the time the revellers have staggered off into the night, a terrible air of resentment, futility and self-hatred has descended upon them, a spiritual hangover having its say before its muscular older brother kicks in.

Part of the English way of life, yes, that seems about right. Binge drinking to obliterate, to forget your Englishness, to force yourself to be fun, outgoing and uninhibited at whatever the price.

Come to think of it, the only punters not to go into this miserable end-of-evening decline were the policemen. Coincidentally, it is the Association of Chief Police Officers who will be arguing this week for "sensible drinking". Presumably, these are not the same rozzers who danced the hokey-cokey with candles up their bottoms.

## What chance of a common goal when the match is off?



FERGAL KEANE

The politics of fear have not gone away in Northern Ireland - they have just become pettier

THERE IS, for once in Northern Ireland, very little argument about how it all began. A football team based in Catholic west Belfast was drawn to play an important cup fixture against a team from the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The team, Donegal Celtic, had no problems with the fixture. For a club with its sights set on achieving high honours, the game against the police was an important stepping stone.

The Steel and Sons cup is a big deal in the world of Ulster soccer with the final played on Christmas morning. It may have crossed the minds of the players that some in west Belfast might not like them playing a game against the RUC. But only a minority, they surely told themselves. There was a ceasefire after all. A Good Friday Peace Agreement. Had Gerry Adams not sat down with David Trimble? Did he not cross the Irish sea frequently to shake the hand of the ultimate boss of all Britain's police forces, Mr Tony Blair?

Perhaps the language they heard on the day of the Agreement might have lulled them into a false sense of security. Remember those fine words: a new beginning, partnership, putting the old bitterness to one side so that we could all work together. God help their innocence. Enter Sinn Féin. Within a day or so the Sinn Féiners roared down from the high ground to declare that the match should not go ahead. "Sinn Féin is publicly calling on Donegal Celtic not to play against the RUC," said one of the party's local councillors, Gerard O'Neill.

Now when a Sinn Féin councillor in their area makes a declaration like this, the footballers know they are in serious trouble. And so they had a vote among their members. They held an extraordinary meeting of the club and voted by a margin of 148 to

70 to go ahead with the game. The democratic will of the members said play. And then the pressure began to build.

Sinn Féin says there was a backlash from the nationalist community. Insiders say the heavies who enforce the will of the republican movement - the IRA - got in on the act. Provo muscle was brought to bear. Do it our way or else. The club backed down, without putting the matter to another vote.

The club's official line was that "unreasonable pressure" was being brought to bear. That is a certain euphemism for threats of violence. It does not take too much imagination to conjure up the scenarios that might have been placed before individual members. The club house that might be burned down, the car that might be torched, the streets it might not be safe to walk down. The kind of stuff you hear from bullies everywhere but backed up by the fearsome reputation of the IRA. Only a fool would have decided to play on in those circumstances. For the record, Sinn Féin describe the re-

ports of intimidation as "absolute nonsense". Sure lads. Donegal Celtic simply saw the error of their ways and pulled back, overwhelmed by the deeply felt anger of the masses.

But Donegal Celtic didn't jump, they were pushed. Without the controversy generated by Sinn Féin, the game would have gone ahead. A lot of nationalists would certainly have disapproved but the game would have not been stopped. Donegal Celtic would probably have won and gone on to compete for the cup on Christmas morning. But Sinn Féin had another agenda and the small ambitions of a bunch of junior footballers did not rate highly on the party's list of priorities.

This is about hard politics and control. Sinn Féin has had the RUC in its sights (metaphorically of course, the more literal expression being left to the IRA) for many years. Having agreed a brave compromise on Good Friday, indefinitely postponing its sacred goal of a United Ireland, the party needs to deliver on issues where it has some leverage over the government. Reform of the police is at the very top of the list, identified by Gerry Adams as a core function of the peace agreement. The RUC is not now and never has been a cross community institution. Only 8 per cent of its 13,000 members are Catholic (this is a function not only of minority mistrust but also the IRA's ruthless targeting of Catholic officers).

But as I say, this is not only about the future of the RUC. It also has to do with control. Donegal Celtic made the mistake of challenging the republican autocrats. Did they really think that the boys in the ski-masks who spend their weekends breaking the arms and legs of "anti-social" teenagers were going to let a puny football club best them? Was the organisation which had spent 30 years



The flag of Donegal Celtic, forced out of a contest by the IRA

trying to kill RUC men about to allow a Catholic team to play games with off-duty policemen? Never. The IRA may be on ceasefire but, as Gerry Adams reminded us, it has not gone away. It is also having to look over its shoulders at those who regard themselves as the last of the true republicans. These are the hardliners who left the IRA and planted the Omagh bomb, who still support armed struggle and would of course regard any nationalist contacts with the RUC as treachery. Perhaps the IRA felt it needed to look extra tough on this occasion.

What is disturbingly implicit in the Sinn Féin position is the belief that only republicans have suffered. Therefore the police must be ostracised because they caused pain to nationalists. They arrested, they beat, they shot. They baton charged mourners at funerals where armed IRA pallbearers appeared or threatened to appear. All of these things happened. I witnessed some of them myself. But has Sinn Féin forgotten that 300 policemen were killed and thousands in-

jured, most of them at the hands of the IRA?

I reported on enough police funerals, sat listening to their widows long enough to know the depth of anguish felt in that closely knit community. The RUC paid a terrible price. And it is worth recording that the RUC dead were, according to Sinn Féin's own definition, our fellow Irishmen and women. They were drawn from the Ulster Protestant community with whom the Catholics of Ireland, north and south, must reconcile if a United Ireland is to move from the status of aspiration to reality.

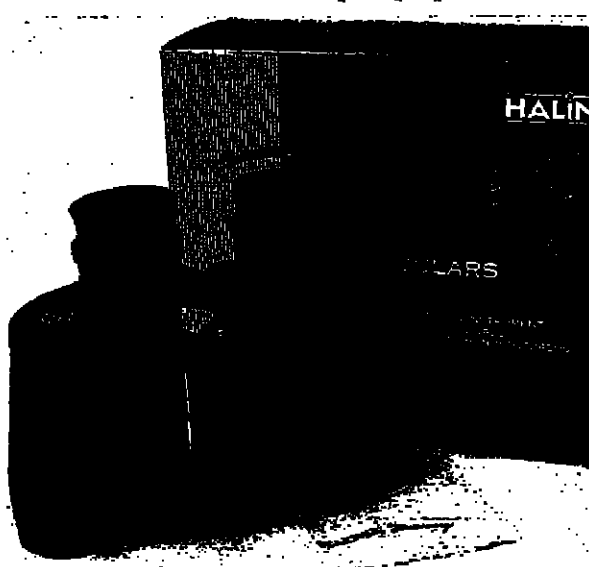
Playing a football match with the police would have been a small step towards reconciliation. Even allowing it to go ahead with republican reservations would at least have been an expression of tolerance. Instead we got cynicism and atavism. The politics of fear triumphed once again. For the record, Donegal Celtic forfeited the game.

Fergal Keane is a BBC special correspondent

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## The amazing advance of knowledge

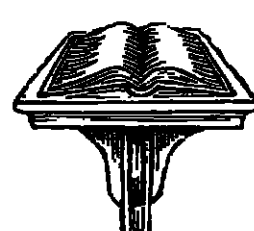
THE SIZE scale of the electronic data world, its speed of growth and accuracy more than justifies strong words of warning to a naive, ill-briefed electorate. Today, 100 million people use the Internet, only a fraction of those who will surely use it in the years to come. Internet traffic doubles every 100 days. Other growth data in the electronic era is just as startling. Computing power has doubled every 18 months for the last 30 years. In 1980 telephone calls over copper wire carried one page of information per second; now optical fibre transports 90,000 volumes in a second. The era is marked by falling prices and faster and faster data transmission.

The individual today has been heavily compromised by the ability of computerisation to bring together into one personally identified record, information about them, and to maintain and use it. Data collection is the key. Geographical distance, time and motion are diminished or extinguished by open systems computers' capacity to access and copy knowledge from electronic sources far distant. Records

are now all too accessible and are modified, enlarged and used in countless ways.

In truth, we have very little experience and knowledge on how to live harmoniously in an information-led society. Our main medium of exchange for several millennia has been money. Now we also have information. We are not generally equipped, as a free society should be, to judge the relative probable benign or malignant social influence an information flow may cause. With that in mind we should recall the error of software and couple that with the proliferation of false data even a single inaccurate record can cause. Millions of people can be helped or harmed by a systems failure, too. Synthesis of data containing one false fact can do just the same to individuals.

The citizens of a genuinely free society should be consulted as far as possible before authorising the sharing of any personal information about them with third parties. They should have a right to ensure that any publicly owned information stored is accurate. They should have the right to redress if it is not. It should be



PODIUM

LADY NICHOLSON

From the annual John Stuart Mill Lecture, given by the Liberal Democrat peer

the legitimate expectation of every citizen that information held about them by the government is protected from unauthorised external access. Data matching by government departments should be strictly controlled and monitored. The right to privacy should be universal, guaranteed by the enactment and enforcement of suitable legislation.

Article 8 of the European Convention for the protection

of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms gave a conditional right to privacy defined as "respect for private and family life". A joint declaration of the European Parliament, Council and Commission of 1977 recognised that the principles enshrined in that convention must be taken into consideration in European Community law. Article F of the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 included the substance of that Joint Declaration. With over a year's debate in Parliament, Britain signed that also. Privacy is a concept that we have accepted now and must begin to implement.

How then should the citizen view the State with regard to liberty in this period of change? Certainly the state owns and controls more information about us than other entity, although commercial organisations will soon catch up. Neither prospect is appealing: such targeted and precise, coordinated knowledge almost replaces freedom with externally induced predestination as our thoughts, actions and choices are prefigured for us.

Individual freedom has, without doubt, been placed in

severe jeopardy by the electronic developments of our time and yet the knowledge-led society is one where all of us can enjoy life-long learning, developing and understanding of much that was only accessible by older mechanisms to a select few.

Michael Ignatieff puts the paradox most neatly in his explanation of what liberty should mean to individuals: "There's nothing wonderful about modernity at all. It depends what you do with it, where you go and above all whether modernisation means, at the end of the day, that this country is freer than it was before..."

I disagree with his first point. Modernisation in terms of the electronic era is wonderful in its own right; an amazing advance of human knowledge. But he's right on the renewed search for freedom within the sunrise world. It is considerably more difficult to find and to secure in the new environment, but without that certainty the last century's gains will mostly be swallowed up by that great Leviathan, the State, the commercial predators, and the press.



JP 11/11/98

# Lessons of life in a tax haven



**HAMISH MCRAE**

*I can think of worse ways for a downsized fund manager to spend the winter than in Barbados*

SAY THE words "tax haven" and all the accoutrements of sleaze spring to mind: brass name-plate companies, gin-soaked expats, rip-offs of investors, the late Robert Maxwell. Any business that is run from a place like Liechtenstein or a Caribbean island immediately carries a taint. If it's legit, why on earth is it being run from there?

Say the words "inward investment," on the other hand, and the image is quite the reverse: it is a vote of confidence in the attractive business climate, the skilled workforce and the generally efficient economy. Thus, British ministers are proud of the fact that the UK is not only the largest recipient of inward investment in the European Union but the second largest, after the United States, in the world. "Tax haven" is grubby, "inward investment" is squeaky-clean.



Barbados has done well transforming its economy from a reliance on sugar, but can it now create jobs by luring the world's financial operations? George Hunter/SDR

Now suppose, like me, you are in Barbados - not a particularly disagreeable thought at this time of year. It's a tiny island - 22 miles by 14 miles - but has been extremely successful in transforming its economy from reliance on sugar and other basic commodities into a tourist haven. As a result, its 280,000 people have one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean.

But there are limits to tourism, even if you do it well. Leaving aside the danger of being dependent on, so to speak, one crop - tourism is one-third of Barbados's GDP - wage rates are always going to be under pressure. However hard you try to push yourself to the top of the market, there will always be other newer, and maybe cheaper, destinations snapping at your heels. Ideally, you should buttress tourism with another "crop," preferably one that delivers high wage rates and employs a fair number of people.

Step forward financial services. How do you create a financial services industry that isn't just a tax haven? Answer: encourage "inward investment" in financial services.

The tax haven model has, on the face of it, been pretty successful. Places as diverse as Monaco, the Channel Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and Luxembourg have created a tax and/or regulatory advantage and have grown rich on the

back of it. But pure tax havens, the ones that exist only because of low taxation and essentially just provide name-plates for businesses that are run from thousands of miles away, are under threat. The European Union does not like them; the US authorities are worried that so many of the much-criticised hedge funds are legally located offshore; and the OECD is making a study to try and see how tax haven abuse should be curbed.

You can't stop rich retirees moving to escape high personal taxation, the original impetus for the Channel Islands' financial services boom. You can't stop sports personalities like Ian Woosnam or Nigel Mansell going to live on Jersey any more than you can stop the string of anonymous British millionaires with beach houses here on Barbados's "Platinum Coast". Nor, in a world without exchange controls, can you stop people moving their money offshore, even if they keep their persons in Kensington or Chelsea. But you can try and stop the name-plate and of the business by closing the tax loophole that makes shifting money offshore so

attractive. If, for some reason, the EU and UK authorities decided to cut up rough, they could do enormous damage to a place like Jersey. So, to some extent, offshore financial service industries have to live with the consent of national authorities. The issue for a place like Barbados is how to build an industry on the lines of Ireland, which has developed an offshore financial service industry by offering tax breaks, but one which is carried out by people physically located in Dublin.

In the Irish case, a model which is being studied here in Barbados, the argument is that a financial services "factory" is no different from, say, a personal computer factory. It's perfectly proper to use tax breaks, grants and so on to attract industries that produce tangible objects, it is also perfectly proper to use the same incentive to attract industries which produce intangible services.

Thus, Barbados is seeking to build an offshore financial services business where the work is actually done here on the island. There is what Winston Cox, Governor of the Central Bank, calls "a tight tax ju-

risdiction" (nice phrase that), but the Barbadian authorities see little point in attracting business just because of tax. They need the jobs to be here, too.

Can it be done? I don't know. There is a conference taking place here at the moment for foreign financial service companies, where the speakers have identified various areas where Barbados might seek to specialise: things like electronic commerce and fund management.

The island has a well-educated population, but the authorities here acknowledge it will need to import specialist skills. I can think of worse ways for a downsized London fund manager to spend the winter, but it defeats the object if Barbados were to rely largely on expats. Whether it can develop and sustain the necessary skill base is not clear.

The country seems to be approaching the problems in a thoughtful and intelligent way, with emphasis on sound, but friendly, regulation training of staff, freedom of capital movements and predictable legislation. But it is a tremendously competitive market and to be successful in financial ser-

vices, as Barbados has been in tourism, is a tough task.

In any case, there is a bigger issue here. Are we going to continue in a world where global capital moves freely and where countries are free to craft tax regimes designed to attract foreign investors? Or will there be a backlash? Some sort of backlash is taking place at the moment. Just last week, for example, the French and German finance ministers were talking about the need for "tax harmonisation" in the EU.

You don't need to be particularly bright to realise that this means that they don't like the fact that the UK has lower taxes than France and Germany and that this is one of the reasons why it has been more successful at attracting inward investment. So it is not just a Barbados, a Jersey, or even an Ireland that is under threat from tax harmonisation. It is the UK, too.

Whether this backlash becomes sufficiently powerful to undermine the world's progress over the last 45 years towards both freer trade and freer capital flows is another matter. The big developed countries

have such a powerful self-interest in maintaining free flows of foreign direct investment that I can't see them doing anything which seriously disrupts that. They are constrained, too, by technology - the fact that global telecommunications are becoming so constant and so cheap that anyone can locate a service industry that relies on telecommunications more or less anywhere in the world. For example, you can put a call centre anywhere where people speak half-decent English.

But we can expect governments to try to curb the more extreme examples of tax haven abuse. If they were wise, they might ponder why their tax and regulatory systems were such that their citizens sought to escape them. But I don't expect such wisdom of government.

The message, therefore, for a country like Barbados is very clear: Do try and attract new inward investment. And do look to financial services as one important source of such investment. But don't ever use the expression "tax haven": just stress your business-friendly "light tax jurisdiction" instead.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

**RICHARD EYRE**



*The chief executive of ITV Network replies to Fergal Keane's attack on the decision to end News at Ten*

AN IMMENSURABLE volume of words has been exchanged on News at Ten. I admire the programme and yet I concluded that, after a fantastic, 31-year innings, it was time to make a change. In many ways I am similar to the viewers who, when researched, are unflinching in their praise for the programme but, in the quiet of their living rooms at 10pm, vote for a change.

It is plain wrong to read into this outcome a final kicking away of the chock that restrained ITV from its plummet away from public service and towards a primacy of ratings and revenue above all fine things.

If that were the plan, it would ultimately be the undoing of ITV. In a market as competitive as ours, we must seek out sustainable points of difference between our service and others. No commercial competitor will ever command audiences as large as ITV, sustain its unique regional persona or invest the same sums in home-produced production. These underwrite ITV's public service and its commercial positioning.

Right now we have to take positive steps to restore the profile of ITV's audience to that of the population as a whole. This is a proper reweighting of our audience performance to ensure that we appeal more to younger and more up-market viewers. They are the most discerning; they will not be seduced by cheapies from America. Only continued investment in high-quality drama, sport and news, current affairs and documentary, will provide moments in their busy lives when a couple of hours with ITV is their favoured leisure option.

We are at the point where worthy rejoinders to the nay sayers are pretty pointless. We just have to get on with it and prove them wrong. So we will.

# Clergy with a flair for sinning

AS THE actress said to the bishop, erring vicars are part of our civilisation - though politicians are catching up. Broadly, we think generally of the vicar with the tart. If, in Lord Chesterfield's phrase, the position is ridiculous, the clergy in impious England are halfway there with their trousers on.

The very term "unfrolocked", the ecclesiastical equivalent of tearing off epaulettes, suggests a sort of involuntary strip. And the mere idea of a clergyman engaged in sex, enjoying a different sort of benefice, involves a more comic step from serenity to frenzy than might apply to the diversions of a computer salesman.



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**THE GREAT UNFROCKED: 2000 YEARS OF CHURCH SCANDAL**  
BY MATTHEW PARRIS, ROBSON BOOKS, £17.95

Matthew Parris, upon whose cool statement of a known fact *The Sun* has lately impaled itself, might have thought when starting on delinquent clerics that he was launching an anthology of frolics. In fact, assisted by Nick Angel (who researched in Consistory Court records and sat it out at the dirty books' study table of the British Library), he has produced laughs for sure in an elegantly and compassionately written book - but one shot through with sadness.

Archdeacon John Wakeford died in Barming Heath lunatic asylum two years after being admitted. John Atherton, Bishop of Waterford in the 17th century, was hanged in Dublin for homosexual acts having spent three days in the company of his coffin. (Incidentally, the last execution for sodomy took place in 1836.) Also hanged was the clearly off-his-trolley James Hackman, a soldier turned priest, who stabbed to death an actress, Martha Ray, with whom he was remotely and obsessively in love.

Wakeford, charged with spending three nights with a woman in a Peterborough hotel, was like a man convicted of murder in the absence of a body. They never found the tart. His madness came at the end of an impassioned campaign by an admired and popular preacher to prove his innocence. So it is a relief to turn to the ones who got away.

I recall the name Lancelot Blackburne on the tablet of archbishops in York Minster. It has a masterful ring to it, worthy of the man who rose inexorably by way of intrigue, loyal Whiggism and (allegedly) by marrying that wife-confining ogre, George I, to his mistress. From Exeter, whose previous bishop's gangrenous condition he monitored for his patron, he ascended to the bliss of York.

There is something delicious about Blackburne, a wrong 'un in exaltis. Reckoned to have started as a pirate's chaplain in Antigua, which beats the dodgiest Anglican seminary, he had a

sharp eye for benefited mortality and was a good (Whig) party man. He cheerfully bawled a close clergy friend for Jacobite writings until the man died in jail, and meanwhile kept up with the sex.

He was accused, while sub-dean of Exeter, of constructing a secret passage to the house of a neighbour whose wife, a Mrs Martyr, he was enjoying. The wired-up Blackburne had better luck than poor Wakeford. The passage was found, the lady existed, but witnesses failed to turn up or changed their stories. After a period of suspension, the aisle-wise Blackburne was exonerated, a classic good chap's cover-up in the best Civil Service tradition.

Advanced to the purple, he kept up his old interests. Taking on a good-looking milkmaid in the office, and later to be accused of three-in-a-bed sex, the Archbishop of York was celebrated in death with these lines: "All the buxom damsels of the North / Who knew his parts, lament their going forth."

What Blackburne had was nerve - more than can be said for the travelling Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Roderick Wright. This priest, beginning well, converted a woman to Catholicism before seducing her. Then he joined the apostolic succession in Argyll, and struck up with another lady. But he collapsed under the attentions of *The Sun* and told all for £15,000 over a bottle of whisky and a Chinese take-away. His limp exit line - "There are no more women, just these two" - would have saddened Archbishop Blackburne.

And from Sir Henry Bate-Dudley - serial duellist, acquitted adulterer, playwright, Irish magistrate gazetted as a baronet and, in a final, quiet phase, the rector of Wingham, Essex - there would have been a contemptuous snort. Bates had started as a journalist, labelled the Duke of Richmond, was jailed for a year and fought a duel with his proprietor. (It beats decayed fish fingers as revenge.)



Harold Davidson, the Rector of Stiffkey and self-styled 'Prostitute's Padre', who was defrocked in 1932 and killed by Freddie the Lion in Skegness in 1937

In a splendid anthology which also brings us Titus Oates, Dr Dodd charged for forgery, St George, the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, the Rector of Stiffkey, Pope Joan, Bishop Casey and Judas, these two - Bate-Dudley and Blackburne - stand out. They were robust, happy delinquents, all bang and no whimper, and wonderful examples to Ron Davies.

EDWARD PEARCE

## TUESDAY POEM

**MINUS 20**  
BY GARY GEDDES

The stove is damped so air constricted  
whistles in the draft and metal casings  
creak  
as they expand. Jays impatient and  
aggressive  
at the feeder. Me, too, I'm on survival  
mode.

consume more carbohydrates than I need.  
My body, slow, impolitic, resists  
the old imperatives. I'll ski the back trail  
yet, if temperatures permit. The crippled

cedars, permanently bent from wrapping  
round a fallen maple as they grew, now  
form a bold menorah that lights my spirit  
as I pass. Meanwhile the cold dictates,  
decreases this lethargy, this slow combustion  
holding back an ice age in the blood.

This poem comes from the 16th  
collection by Canadian poet  
Gary Geddes, 'Flying Blind', published  
by Enitharmon Press (£8.95) at  
36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD



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# Sir David Lane

DAVID LANE was, in manner, the mildest, most unassuming, and charming of men; but he was unbending in his attachment to the principles in which he believed and this attachment led him – quite against his will – to become a central figure in some of the most bitter political controversies of his time. His parliamentary career was not a long one – he served as Conservative MP for Cambridge from 1967 to 1976 – but he seemed effortlessly to attract controversy wherever he turned.

The problems which he encountered in public were encapsulated quite early on in his time as Cambridge's Conservative parliamentary candidate. The party in that great university town has always been divided by the mutual suspicion between town and gown, the shopkeepers and industrialists of the constituency being resentful of what they see as the superciliousness of the dons, the dons being inclined to regard their fellow citizens as somewhat plebeian. When choosing a parliamentary candidate for – in normal times – a relatively safe Tory seat, it is necessary, therefore, to seek a candidate who can appeal to both strands of opinion and taste.

On the face of it Lane, when selected as the candidate in 1965, seemed ideally suited to appeal to both sides of this unending conflict. He had been to Eton, and he had taken a double First in Classics from Trinity College, Cambridge, despite the fact that his academic career had been interrupted by a year's wartime service in the Royal Navy.

He had seen the sharp end of politics in north London. He had observed the strife which attended the 1958 race relations riots in Notting Hill, and had fought a gallant, if losing, battle as Conservative candidate in the Lambeth Vauxhall constituency in the general election of 1964. He had, after his undergraduate career, been to the Yale School of Business Studies. He had been successful in business, having been secretary of the British Iron and Steel Federation and – at the time

of his selection for Cambridge – was a senior executive at Shell.

As the general election of 1966 approached, however, Lane faced one serious local difficulty. A Cambridge businessman prominent in local government, Alderman Richard King, irritated at being passed over for Lane, decided to stand in the election as an Independent Conservative. He garnered just more than a thousand votes, but it was enough to deny Lane victory, and the Labour candidate, Robert Davies, duly became MP for Cambridge.

Moves immediately began – in today's parlance – to deselect Lane. An unlikely alliance was formed between right-wing academics, who disliked his liberal attitudes on immigration, race relations and other social policy matters, and hard-nosed local businessmen, who had wanted King as their candidate. Matters had come to a crisis when Mark Bradford, a hotelier and a man with a formidable record in Cambridge politics, came to Lane's rescue.

The popularity of Bradford, and that of his wife, Sam, was immense. Bradford took the view that, having selected Lane, Cambridge should not ditch him simply because he had lost an election in a year which had seen a strong national swing to Labour, and at a time when there were particularly debilitating local circumstances. At a special general meeting of the constituency association, held at his own hotel, the University Arms, Bradford's view prevailed. Less than a year later Robert Davies died, and Lane was returned at the consequent by-election.

In 1970 the Conservatives won a general election, and the new Prime Minister, Edward Heath, appointed Lane as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office, with immigration and race relations as his particular remit. Central to Lane's view of politics was that benevolent legislation and resolute administrative action by government could produce amelioration of relations between different races in Britain. He advocated his view strongly, and this advocacy led to increasing hostility towards him, both



The first Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, 1977-82

Hulton Getty

in his constituency and among many of his parliamentary colleagues. Despite the hopes his friends had that he would reach high office, he never rose above his lowly position.

Matters became worse when the Conservatives lost two general elections in 1974. Margaret Thatcher supplanted Heath as party leader in

call on him at his home in Great Shelford.

Lane had been deeply involved in the settlement of East African Asian immigrants in Britain in the early 1970s, and he was an outspoken supporter of Labour's Race Relations Act of 1976. His efforts in this area won him no Tory friends, but they did

advancement, accepted with alacrity the Home Secretary's invitation to become chairman of the new body.

His brief was a wide one, and he intended to be a particularly active chairman. A host of investigations was set in train, a multitude of awards bestowed. However, in 1983 a House of Commons inquiry produced a damning indictment of his stewardship, in particular complaining that the majority of the investigations he had commissioned had not been concluded, and that he had shown little aptitude for taking the kind of affirmative action in race relations which the scope of the 1976 act allowed him.

Moreover, he began to lose the hitherto steadfast respect of ethnic minorities, whom he had assiduously wooed in the early years of the decade. Conservative criticism he could easily shrug off, but attacks from his natural supporters were less easy to ignore. He suffered a particularly heavy blow in 1981, when one of his senior officials, Charles Boxer, resigned, stating publicly that Lane often did not

read the reports and, when he did, failed to understand them. This criticism was unfairly harsh, but it left Lane dispirited and, the following year, he made his own departure.

Though he was, from time to time, consulted about specific race relations problems by successive Home Secretaries, Lane never again played any important role in public life. His record will stand as that of a decent and honourable man who was, simply, out of tune with the temper of his times, and lost in a world of increasing political polarisation.

PATRICK COSGRAVE

David William Stennis Stuart Lane, politician: born London 24 September 1922; called to the Bar, Middle Temple 1955; MP (Conservative) for Cambridge 1967-76; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office 1972-74; Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality 1977-82; Chairman, National Association of Youth Clubs 1982-87; Rt 1983; married 1955 Lesley Anne Clauson (two sons); died Cambridge 16 November 1998.

Central to Lane's view of politics was that benevolent legislation and resolute action by government could ameliorate relations between races in Britain

1975, and Lane found himself increasingly out of tune with the right-wing policies introduced by the new order. I recall, indeed, a particularly frosty encounter between him and Thatcher when, on her way to a speaking engagement at my old college, she paid a so-called courtesy

earn him the respectful attention of the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins.

Jenkins decided to amalgamate the old Race Relations Board and the old Community Relations Commission into one body, the Commission for Racial Equality. Lane, seeing little opportunity for parliamentary

## Esther Rolle

THE AFRICAN-American actress Esther Rolle gained national recognition in the 1970s for her role as Florida Evans in two television sitcoms for CBS: first as the wise-cracking, militant domestic in *Moude*, and then its hit spin-off, *Good Times*, as the strong-willed but loving mother of a struggling black family in Chicago.

Born in Pompano Beach, Florida in 1922, Rolle was the 10th of 18 children, and her father was a farmer. An older sister, Estelle Evans, also an actress, memorably played Calpurnia in the film version of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962).

After graduating from high school, Rolle pursued an acting career by travelling to New York and becoming one of the early members of the Negro Ensemble Company, which in 1969 performed at the Aldwych, London in *God is a (Guess What?)* and *Song of the Luscious Boney*. In the late 1950s she performed with Shogola Obola, an African-American dance troupe.

In 1964 she made her film debut in *Nothing But a Man* and her Broadway debut in *James Baldwin's Blues for Mr Charlie*. The following year she appeared in another

Broadway play by Baldwin, *The Amen Corner*. Other important stage appearances included *Lady Macbeth* in an off-Broadway version of *Macbeth* (1977), and as the matriarch Lena Younger in a tour of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* (1987). Later film appearances included *Cleopatra Jones* (1973) and *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989). Her final film appearance will be in *Down in the Delta*, directed by Maya Angelou.

In 1971 Rolle started her television career with regular appearances in the daytime soap *One Life to Live*, and the following year she made her first appearance in *Moude*. Its spin-off, *Good Times*, was launched in 1974, and told the story of a struggling but loving family on Chicago's South Side. It made a star out of Jimmie Walker, who played the older son JJ, and his trademark saying "Dy-O-Mite!" became a national catchphrase. Though the series was not shown in Britain, it was adapted by London Weekend Television in 1976 as *The Fosters*, starring Norman Beaton and Lenny Henry.

Off-screen, Esther Rolle criticised racist stereotypes on American television and even left the cast

of *Good Times* because she felt the image presented by Jimmie Walker's buffoonish character was offensive to blacks. In an interview in *Ebony* the disenchanted actress explained: "I resent the imagery that says to black kids that you can make it by standing on the corner and saying 'Dy-O-Mite'. He's 18 and he doesn't work. He can't read or write. He doesn't think. The show didn't start out to be that. Little by little they have made JJ more stupid and enlarged the role. Negative images have been quietly slipped in on us through the character of the oldest child."

However, Rolle was persuaded to return to the cast of *Good Times* for the 1978-79 season with the promise that JJ would be a more respectable character. For *Good Times*, Esther received the 1974 NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Comedy.

NBC's *Summer of My German Soldier* (1978) was a made-for-television movie set in Georgia during one summer of the Second World War. It followed the bittersweet romance between a teenage Jewish girl (Kristy McNichol) and an escaped Nazi prisoner of war (Bruce Davison). Rolle's portrayal of Ruth, the proud and defiant domestic who protects the teenager, earned her an Emmy award as Best Supporting Actress.

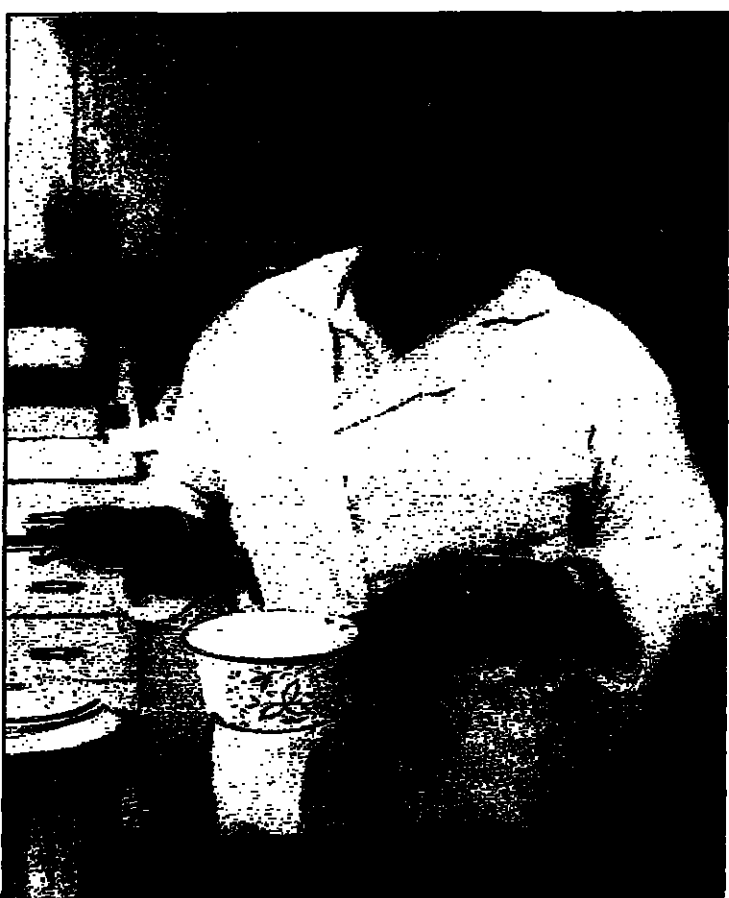
She followed this with another memorable performance as the strong grandmother in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1979). This was CBS's made-for-television movie version of Maya Angelou's eloquent memoir of her days as a gifted youngster growing up in the South during the Depression.

From the 1970s, Rolle made numerous guest appearances in top-rated television series including *The Incredible Hulk* (1978), *Love Boat* (1983) and *Murder She Wrote* (1985). In 1981 she played a leading role in NBC's *Momma Detective*, a pilot for a crime drama series that never materialised; she was cast as a housekeeper with an uncanny knack for solving crimes. In 1989 she appeared in a television version of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

In 1990 she became the first woman to receive the NAACP's Civil Rights Leadership Award for her work improving the image of blacks.

STEPHEN BOURNE

Esther Rolle, actress: born Pompano Beach, Florida 8 November 1922; married (marriage dissolved); died Los Angeles 16 November 1998.



Rolle as the mother in the sitcom *Good Times*, 1974 AP/CBS

## Patrick J. Frawley Jr

PATRICK J. FRAWLEY Jr was a high-school dropout who went on to make his fortune from pens that would not leak and razors that did not rust, with the companies Paper Mate and Schick, then devoted himself to anti-Communist causes and made it his business to combat alcohol and drug addiction.

An independent-minded entrepreneur who saw opportunity where others saw difficulty, Frawley may have inherited his entrepreneurial zeal from his father, who was an Irish-born professor of literature; he went to Nicaragua for his health and variously became a banker, import-exporter and dealer in heavy equipment.

At the age of 18, just two years after dropping out of school in San Francisco, and returning to Nicaragua to work with his father, Frawley junior had learnt how to wheel and deal so well that he arranged for the sale of \$300,000 worth of tyres to the Panamanian government.

He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War and, at the end of the war, married a Canadian and settled in San Francisco. There he became engaged in a series of small-time business ventures that eventually landed him in possession of a failed manufacturer of parts for ball-point pens. Taking advantage of an improved new ink, Frawley turned the company into Paper Mate.

By extolling the Paper Mate pen's leak-proof properties, the company became a runaway success and in 1955, aged 32, Frawley sold it to Gillette for \$15.1m.

New opportunity presented itself in the form of Eversharp Inc, makers of Schick razors, and Technicolor Inc, a Los Angeles-based film processing company. Although the latter company, which developed film-cartridge systems, failed, Schick's introduction of stainless-steel razor blades made it an industry giant.

Following Fidel Castro's Communist takeover of a Schick plant in Cuba in 1958, Frawley discovered that he was not simply an apolitical businessman, but an idealist. He became a stalwart of the American right, financing an array of conservative organisations. Once, when ABC News broadcast a documentary in which Alger Hiss attacked Richard Nixon, Frawley tried to cancel \$3m worth of scheduled Schick advertising. However, the network declined to let him out of the contract.

A man of obsessive enthusiasms, Frawley found the source of his next crusade closer to home, in his own alcoholism. While attending the Shadel Hospital in Seattle to treat his drinking problem, he became so enamoured of its negative-reinforcement therapy programme that he bought the hospital for Schick, and renamed it Schick Shadel.

After he sold Schick to Warner Lambert in 1970, he retained the hospital for himself. He expanded it into a flourishing chain of treatment centres until a squeeze on medical insurance in the late 1980s forced a sharp retrenchment.

But Frawley was also doing well with his personal property investments. In the 1950s he had moved into Bing Crosby's old house on South Mapleton Drive in Los Angeles and in 1984 sold the house to the television producer Aaron Spelling for \$10.25m. Four years later, he sold a smaller place across the street for \$11m.

EDWARD HELMORE

Patrick J. Frawley, businessman: born León, Nicaragua 1923; married (two sons, five daughters); died Santa Monica, California 3 November 1998.

## Gérard Grisey

GERARD GRISEY was one of the most original composers of the generation which followed Pierre Boulez.

An initiator of so-called "spectral" composition, a new style of music developed mainly in France from the detailed study of the acoustical life of sounds, Grisey produced a large and varied output of colourful works, often laced with unexpected touches of humour and caprice. He was also an influential teacher, whose numerous pupils included such prominent figures as Magnus Lindberg.

Born in Belfort, France, in 1946, Grisey initially studied in Germany at the Trossingen Conservatoire, later returning to his native country to study with Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatoire and Henry Dutilleul at the Ecole Normale. From both his teachers Grisey inherited a sensitivity to sound, harmony and instrumentation, and he shared with Messiaen an almost naive freshness and sense of won-

der in his attitude towards culture in general.

Grisey's fascination with Oriental and African music was matched by an unusually catholic taste in Western music – he was one of the few French composers to love the music of Janáček and Sibelius, for example. Grisey also attended the Darmstadt Summer School for New Music where he studied with Karlheinz Stockhausen, whose 1968 work *Stimmung* was a crucial influence.

Grisey won the coveted Prix de Rome, and stayed at the Villa Medici between 1972 and 1974. He remembered this as one of the most exciting periods of his life: he struck up a friendship with a fellow composer, Tristan Murail, with whom he founded the ensemble *l'Intégrale*; and composed his first mature work, the orchestral *Dérives*.

Grisey had been a keen student of acoustics during his Paris years, and his personal style emerged



through investigating sound and exploring the nature of human perception. For instance, *Périodes* for seven instruments, from 1974, was based around sections of regularity and consonance, distorted into chaotic and unpredictable textures, which in their turn transform back into simple harmonies.

It was a characteristically simple

Grisey preferred to work patiently at those pieces which really mattered – there are no minor works

yet expressive idea, which Grisey also used the following year in the *Partiels* for 18 players. These two works became the centre of a vast cycle of six pieces, ranging from a viola solo to music for large orchestra, entitled *Les Espaces Acoustiques* ("Acoustic Spaces"), finally completed in 1985, lasting over an hour and a half.

Each can be played on its own, or connected to any adjacent work in the cycle – the ending of the first piece is the beginning of the second, and so forth. Grisey was very proud of *Les Espaces Acoustiques*, and its complete performance in September 1986 at the Strasbourg Ars Musica Festival, where he was featured composer, played to a sold-out hall to great acclaim. He was also featured composer at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival on two occasions.

Grisey's sudden emergence as a new voice in French music, quite distinct from the school of Boulez, won him immediate attention and he began to be much in demand internationally both as composer and teacher, especially in Italy (where he signed a long-term contract with Ricordi Publishers) and in Germany (where he taught for many years at the summer school in Darmstadt).

From 1983 to 1988 he taught composition at the University of California at Berkeley, and then returned to Paris in 1987 as Professor of Composition at the Conservatoire, where he remained until his death.

He made an ideal teacher – widely read and very witty, he had a ready sympathy for young composers and was proud that, on the whole, his pupils wrote such different music from both him and each other. His class was notable both for its lively, often hilarious atmosphere, and for the range of music he analysed – anything from Machaut to Stockhausen, via such favourites as Janáček, Messiaen or Scelsi.

A thoughtful man and a fastidious composer, Grisey preferred to work patiently at those pieces which really mattered – there are no minor works. After 1988, his style changed substantially, with such works as the compelling *Vortex Temporum* for ensemble (1986), which created a sensation at Huddersfield last November, and above all the major song-cycle to texts by Piero della

Francesca, *Litane Paradoxe*, a commission from the Los Angeles Philharmonic who premiered it under Esa-Pekka Salonen in 1986.

Wilder and more agile than his previous music, these bold pieces confirmed his position as one of Europe's key composers, whose music appealed to audiences, without any stylistic compromise or concession. Just before his untimely death, he had completed a BBC commission for the London Sinfonietta, inspired by the inscriptions on ancient Egyptian sarcophagi and to be premiered in London next February.

JULIAN ANDERSON

Gérard Grisey, composer: born Belfort, France 17 June 1946; teacher of composition, University of California, Berkeley 1982-85; Professor of Orchestration and Composition, Conservatoire de Paris 1987-98; married (one son); died Paris 11 November 1998.

JP 11/20/98









Williams

om?

as the politics is  
and, she'd sometimes  
the swimming with blue  
but at the same time she  
doing her good. She  
made her more  
and improved her  
relaxation skills. "People  
had a bad attitude towards  
her," she says with all the  
lamb of a covert, "but  
not trying to improve  
it would be great if more  
got involved."  
is moment her main worry  
ing a work placement for  
her. Ideally she wants a  
in scientific research,  
mental work or ecology  
to spend some time  
but at the moment I'd  
or anything."  
she enjoying college?  
ratty is a wonderful  
nasty for me," says Dani  
e stop dragging their heels  
it life, and are more up for  
things out of the ordinary  
rying it all and hope that  
will continue the way they  
not get even better."



Beverley Hutnik and Simon Fullerton-Ballantine engaged in the strenuous business of getting rid of millions

Huw Evans

# How to live on £20,000 a day

It must be quite tedious winning a six-figure jackpot in the Nineties. You're a millionaire but, before you know it, someone's telling you how not to spend the money. The National Lottery lays on a whole team of advisors to counsel winners. Then there are investors advising on a range of high-interest accounts, and psychologists warning that giving up the day job straight away would be too stressful.

All that prudence and good sense. Even more disappointingly, most winners seem to follow it. So much financial nannying has created a generation of Formula-dull winners who spend their time saying things such as: "We've bought my parents a new house but apart from that we've determined to carry on living as we always did." Same friends, same life, same everything. Let's just pretend it's no big deal.

Why? What on earth is wrong with a bit of flamboyance, excess and

It takes time, energy and imagination to blow a fortune, complain two of the latest lottery winners. Still, only one more million to go. By Emma Cook

sheer tacky hedonism? Enter Beverley Hutnik and Simon Fullerton-Ballantine, of Gwent, who discovered a month ago that they'd won a £1.89m jackpot on the National Lottery. Rather admirably, they've eschewed all sensible advice in favour of spending like beasts. Instant gratification. No Nicholas-style and lots of off. Not a word about comments in the press and simple living until they've "decided exactly what we want to do." "What's the point of not enjoying it? We've spent our whole lives being sensible," says Simon, lounging around in his brand-new, four-double-bedroom house, complete with a large, heated swimming pool. Not that he can swim, but who cares? Noel Gallagher can't drive his chocolate-coloured Rolls-Royce but then true flamboyance thrives on voracious wants not needs. Bev and Simon's list of wants have cost them a pretty impressive £833 every 60 minutes over the last 30 days - a total of £250,000, or £20,000 a day.

It's been a full-time job - a mission, even. When Simon was with golden combination of digits flash up on the TV screen, he acted quickly, phoning work to resign from his £300-a-week job as a floor layer. Fifty per cent of jackpot winners return to their jobs after resigning but you can bet that Simon won't be among them. "I never want to work again. Bev was far more sensible about her job though," he says. "She waited until Monday morning to hand in her notice." Their next step was a visit to a local Porsche showroom. "We went straight there when we found out," says Simon. "You don't even need a credit card."

couple visited London a few weeks ago, they didn't know where to spend their money. In the end Simon bought some designer clothes. "I spent £2,000 on Ciro something or other. Hang on," he fumbles. "I'll just check to see who it is. Ciro Citerio." he reads off a label inside his jacket. "I've got a watch of his, too." But truly excessive spending seems to take some practice. "We couldn't find anywhere to eat and drink," says Simon. What about the Ritz or the Savoy? "I wasn't interested," he says. "I'm used to eating chips and pies. I still know the value of food. I'm not paying £17 for a sandwich." Instead, they went hungry and had a cheeseburger on the train back to Gwent. "And we had to stand all the way," he moans. What about first class? "Oh, I couldn't be bothered to book all that in advance."

While Simon is still enthralled, to say the least, with the joys of retail therapy, Beverley, who was a production operator in an electronics company, seems a little more philosophical. "Money can't make you happier. It's just there to spend. We were happy before this. We got on well and we still do." Like Simon, she'll never go back to work willingly. "I thought, oh God, is this it until I'm 60?" Beverley met Simon eight months ago when they were drinking in a local hotel. A year ago, her fiancé had walked out with a younger woman, and she was re-mortgaging her house when she won the jackpot.

Now she seems a little jaded with her four-week spending spree - it's early afternoon and she's in bed. Both of them seem exceedingly tired. Today they've only bought some milk to make a cup of tea, which seems a bit lame. Surely, they're suffering withdrawal symptoms? "I'm fed up with shopping at the moment," says Bev weakly. She has briefly woken up for the interview. "All I want to do is rest."

## THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

21. STILETTOS BY KATE MULVEY

YOU CAN wear any kind of shoe this season so long as it's flat, according to the fashion commentators. This leaves me with a problem, for I have a love affair with the stiletto. No matter how de rigueur this season's grey ankle length skirt may be (which incidentally looks like you've wrapped yourself in a British Airways blanket) if it doesn't look good with a pair of heels then it stays in the shop.



My wardrobe is a shrine to the high-heeled shoe. There's the gold lamé mules bought last summer in Rome, various black numbers and my Gucci metal slingbacks brought out for nights of partying and getting wrecked.

But why would one choose to wear a shoe that has connotations not only of the leather-clad dominatrix but, even worse, of Essex girls dancing around a handbag? The reason is simple. Stilettos are about fantasy. Flat shoes promise practicality and efficiency, a sort of bright and breezy Jill Dando. Six-inch spikes promise glamour, danger and the kind of girl you wouldn't take home to your mother but would love to have locked up in your flat.

When Anita Ekberg drank champagne out of her stiletto in the film, *La Dolce Vita*, she wasn't after an interesting new taste sensation, warm leather and grape. No, this was a clear case of seduce and be damned. No one understood this more than

Marilyn Monroe - she went so far as to have one stiletto heel made shorter than the other to develop her famous wobble.

And therein lies the rub. Wearing stilettos is not just a matter of being taller than your Birkenstock sisters, it totally changes the way a woman walks. Flat shoes allow you to slouch with your shoulders forward, high heels on the other hand require an altogether different body language.

Once you've slipped your feet into a pair of spikes, you can forget striding down the road in a purposeful manner and get used to putting one foot tentatively in front of the other, as if you're not quite sure you whether you will stay vertical or not. Poised high above the ground, your pelvis presses forward, your shoulders are brought back and the bottom has no alternative

but to rock from side to side in an unmistakable sashaying movement. Va voom... the body language of a sex goddess in the click of a heel.

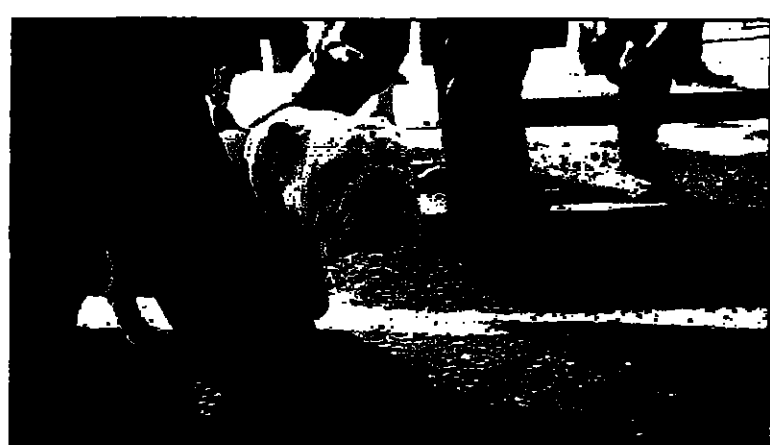
Wearing high heels has an uplifting effect on the wearer. Whenever I slip on my Guccis I feel more feminine and sexy. It's a bit like a Wonderbra for the legs, but instead of artificially enhanced cleavage, your ankles are slimmer and the legs are elongated.

OK, so the fashion mafia may damn the stiletto as naïf. "It's all about deconstruction of the form," they wail, trying to gesticulate wildly, only there are no armholes in their boiled-wool shell tops. But surely it's Katherine Hamnett who understands what women want. As she says: "We can talk all kinds of bullshit about clothes, but in the end they're about getting laid."

## Do not adjust your set

You switch channels when they appear on television, but a new video of party political broadcasts may be a bestseller at Christmas. Honest. By Tom Sutcliffe

Easily the funniest sequence in Politico's collection of party political broadcasts is a choice offering from 1987. It depicts a young boy in neat school uniform who is addressing the camera directly with a speech about pollution of the sea. He hasn't got very far into his ecological sermon before several kilos of soot descend from the top of the frame, avalanching off his cherubic head to form small drifts on his shoulders and the pleats of his shirt. The soot is quickly followed by what appears to be the contents of an industrial vacuum cleaner bag. All the while the boy speaks on, pausing only briefly to spit out debris. As he is gamely summing up his case against random dumping at sea, a cloacal brown coil languidly flops onto his blackened hair, followed by a cascade of marine diesel fuel, an oily veil which finally obscures his features entirely.



New Labour, new gimmick. The bulldog greets the rosy dawn

The Green Party was relatively new to this particular form of broadcasting so can perhaps be forgiven for not grasping all the principles at once. They had understood that the use of children was a major plus - subliminally reminding the electorate of its responsibilities to future generations - but they hadn't realised it wasn't a good idea actually to torture them on screen. Tormenting the audience, on the other hand, is standard practice, whether you do it by means of toxically pure concentrations of caring compassion or by stratagems that would be better suited to assisting children with learning disabilities.

In the early days there was a kind of innocence to the form, with most broadcasts optically captured in Harry Enfield's Cholmondely-Warner information films. "Hullo Mrs Philpott!"

says a Tory speaker brightly in a Conservative broadcast of 1983, before a brutal cutaway gives you Mrs Philpott herself, five-foot six of hombody stereotype, smiling away as if her pension depended on it.

It doesn't take long for the delivery to get a little more sophisticated, though; by 1989 an unimaginably youthful Tony Benn is eagerly inviting viewers to "Labour's TV and Radio Operations room", a kind of prototype Millbank in which Christopher Mayhew served as a one-man instant-response generator. These days the job is done by Excalibur, the Labour party's super-computer, but some things haven't changed. "Of course, politics is not a matter of personalities," concludes Benn, "it's a matter of isboos."

The isboos, of course, are complicated - which leads to the political broadcast's most abiding vice - insult by explanation. "Look at France," invites the voice-over to a 1979 Conservative

election broadcast, and the camera cuts helpfully to a man in striped T-shirt, beret and a moustache, cackling Gallically as he waves the wad of francs his country's free-market policies have secured him. Oh, that France! By April 1986 the Conservatives were in office and had changed to a motoring theme, so France became a clapped out old Renault, being overtaken by the souped-up British economy (licence plate TOR 12E).

Nobody seems exempt from this tendency to treat the audience as if they have learning difficulties: "The model of British politics has been the seesaw," explained John Cleese in 1986, with the exasperated disbelief which was the mark of his party political broadcasts (PPBs). And just in case we had difficulty grasping this challenging concept, he walked over to a small wooden model of a see-saw, complete with little Labour and Tory puppets.

"There's a serious point to all this flora," said Glenda Jackson, speaking to

us from a plant-filled conservatory. We suspected there might be, of course, and we realised what it was when Glenda squashed a tray of plucky British seedlings with an ornamental Bonsai tree, complete with rising sun flag. By the time of the last election Britain is out of the potting shed and has taken on the form of bulldog, waddling on arthritic limbs into a fighting effect that the Labour party asks you to believe is a rosy dawn, but which might equally well be twilight.

They aren't all moronic, naturally. Now and then a genuine note of passion or anger penetrates the synthetic outrage and calculation. Even now the 1979 Tory broadcast which cut between a headline reporting Callaghan's "Crisis, what crisis?" statement and montages of uncollected rubbish and pickets' braziers, conveys a sense of furious exasperation at an unsustainable state of affairs.

More recently Kinnock - *The Movie*, Hugh Hudson's shamelessly lachrymose biography of the Labour leader, can still constrict the throat with its brilliant blend of Brahms and platform rhetoric. But if examples like that mislead you into a false affection for a form that has done us far more harm than good over the years, remember the Natural Law Party's sublime PPB for the last election as a better example of the type. That attempted to persuade us that bouncing cross-legged across a room full of mattresses was "yogic flying" and promised to implement a state of "bubbling bliss" in the nation. A touch more extreme than the usual promises, true, but different in degree only.

*'Party Political Broadcasts: The Greatest Hits' is available from Politico's, 8 Artillery Row, London SW1. Tel: 0171-828 0010 priced £19.99*

# In the footsteps of Forsythe

The master choreographer has brought his Frankfurt Ballet to London's Sadler's Wells. But what is it about William Forsythe's work that makes it so distinctive. And inspire such devotion? By John Percival

Ask William Forsythe how he persuaded ballet dancers to follow him on his trip to find new ways of dancing and of creating dance, and you are likely to get the answer, "That's where I come from. I'm a ballet dancer."

His fellow choreographer Jonathan Burrows had that response when talking to him about Forsythe's duet *The The*, which was included in a recent Queen Elizabeth Hall programme of dances. Some reviewers found *The The* hard to take, with the dancers sitting down all through it and making small, sometimes aggressive movements.



*'I enjoy dancing. I just enjoy it because it feels good. Is there anything wrong with that?'*

Reid Anderson, now director of the Stuttgart Ballet, remembers dancing alongside Forsythe in the Seventies. That was when Forsythe, at 26, showed his first public choreography, a duet called *Urchin*, to music by Mahler, initially dancing it himself with his then wife Eileen Brady on a workshop programme. "It was an instant success, was taken into the company repertoire, and he asked me to dance it," says Anderson. "You knew at once you were working with a real choreographer from the way he could describe exactly what he wanted and how the step had to look. We still have that piece in the repertoire."

Anderson sees Forsythe as "one of those really fantastic choreographers who take the art form forward...he changed the face of ballet, not only by stretching the dancers to the limit but by the way he uses music, costume and the stage."

What Royal Ballet dancer Peter Abegglen likes about being in Forsythe productions is that he always makes dancers give "a little bit more than they think they can achieve". He says that Forsythe "changed things for us to fit our bodies, because he always wants the dancers to look good". His colleague Deborah Bull says of her rehearsals for *Septext* that "he moulded it to me, and moulded me to it".

Bull likes Forsythe's work and "him as a person, his attitude: terribly straightforward and enormously enthusiastic. He is working from the base of 'It's great, but you can do better', rather than the English response of 'That's not it at all'."

But Abegglen and Bull both acknowledge that what Forsythe does with his own company is more complex and difficult - "scary but thrilling". This is because the dancers, steeped in his work (it may take about four years to fully ac-

climate), have learned to speak his dance language, and he makes the choreographic process a collaboration. In Abegglen's analogy, "he gives them the words and they have to make up their own sentences".

Forsythe is punctilious about crediting the dancers' contributions on the printed programmes, and pays them for their share, although he makes a distinction between different levels of authorship. "If I've made the material and you're re-aligning it, OK you don't get paid for that, but if you're developing the material yourself and I need to use it, yes, you get paid for that section."

Reid Anderson adds that although the Frankfurt dancers sometimes have to improvise, it is within a framework that Forsythe has set. "It drives him crazy if they go outside that framework." And in his choreography they "have to remember not only what the step is but how you have to do it".

Even in the more straightforward ballets which Forsythe has created or remounted for other companies, such as the three in the Royal Ballet's repertoire, he takes the dancing out of its traditional alignment, with twists and unbalances, unexpected timing or placing, and a casual way of walking or standing mixed in with the formality of balletic movement.

The creative procedures he has developed within his own company enable him to go further in terms of complexity, of turning sequences inside out or back to front, and of exploring minute relationships between different parts of the body.

Just as George Balanchine, having established his own style of pure classic ballet as a standard for others to aim at, introduced a sharper, more angular neo-classic style in the Fifties with ballets such as *Agon* and *Episodes*, so Forsythe has gone a step further in turning ballet into a style that accords with the pace, structure and moods of the other arts at the century's end.

Whereas a conventional choreographer is the person who devises the dances, even though often with some input from the dancers, Forsythe has been writing himself out of the process to a large extent. But he is still the one who essentially has to start things off by setting the tasks for a new work, the timing, the structure, the nature of the movement to be explored; and also to bring the material together, to say no when necessary, to edit and display it, choose the atmosphere and the scenic context. So however much or little of the choreography is directly by him, the complete work remains recognisably his.



Forsythe changed moves in 'Septext' to fit dancers' bodies: 'he wants dancers to look good,' says one

Laurie Lewis

That is why it is "so very different from the things that we do," says David Bintley, choreographer and director of Birmingham Royal Ballet. He finds it "a very personal style, and a style which, for all of the philosophical background that colours each piece, is just concerned with bodies, with movements."

Bintley finds that young people are looking back at classicism, and that although Forsythe's work is light years away from the old style, it is still classicism: "There's still the

pointe shoe at the back of it."

So BRB will present one of Forsythe's ballets next year, because Bintley thinks it is necessary for British audiences outside London to see this for themselves. They will do the first part of *Limb's Theorem*, a three-act work, part two of which (under its separate title *Enemy in the Figure*) is included in the Frankfurt Ballet's programme at Sadler's Wells.

Bintley says of Forsythe's own dancers: "I like the rough edge of the

Frankfurt Ballet. I like the toughness, and the feeling that they're all individual people." Anderson, too, comments on the "extraordinary mixture of dancers and styles" in the Frankfurt Ballet; the fact that they are visually a mixture of sizes and shapes, yet all have this way of appearing right, intellectually and physically.

This fits in with Deborah Bull's conviction that Forsythe's greatest strength is that he "loves to see dancers dancing at their best". And

Forsythe says of himself: "I really enjoy dancing too. Just enjoy it because it feels good. I mean, is there something wrong with that? I don't see the need to give it a false earnestness. Why be so serious? You know it's dancing, which is serious in some ways, but it doesn't have to be made more serious than it is. When we're dancing we get a tremendous amount of delight."

Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1, to 28 Nov (0171-863 3000)

## For the love of Belisa

### OPERA

THE NIGHTINGALE'S  
TO BLAME  
HUDDERSFIELD  
CONTEMPORARY  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

SIMON HOLTS first opera - premiered at Huddersfield by Opera North as part of a retrospective of his music - is based on *The Love of Don Perlimplin and Belisa in the Garden* by Federico Garcia Lorca.

Let us be clear: the nightingale is certainly not to blame for the disastrous marriage between the ageing bibliophile Don Perlimplin and the beautiful Belisa, whom he hears singing (like a nightingale) from a balcony. For this he has to thank his pushy maid and the girl's bird-brained mother, comically portrayed in this production by Frances McCafferty in a wonderfully extravagant hat of many feathers.

The wedding over, Perlimplin, stripped of his frock coat and powdered wig, prophetically admits to Belisa that the sensation of love had hit him as if someone had "drawn a scalpel across his throat". He realises that though he has not got the strength to enjoy Belisa's body, plenty of others have. But now that he has tasted love he can afford to sacrifice himself, extraordinarily and movingly.

Against Neil Irish's colourful sets, in the style of a children's pop-up book, Martin Duncan's production is considerable to the small cast already wracked by a score demanding a terrific act of concentration. The singing is enormously impressive.

Donald Maxwell as Perlimplin, is on stage for nearly the whole of the opera, reaching parts of his voice that surely even he did not know existed. As the coloratura Belisa, Patricia Rozario successfully combines vulnerability with unquenchable desire. With Fiona Kinn in bedecoring mode as his maid, it is difficult to understand why Perlimplin has not sought escape into marriage long before now. Two duendes, here acrobatic sprites or spirits, turn a mean cartwheel as well as showing off their vocal agility.

The opera's dialogue is emphasised by darkly threatening instrumental interludes, played by just 16 players with no violins, all but swamping the opera's delicately lyrical aspect. The music unfolds with such relentless intensity that one cherishes the few breathing spaces. I suspect that the singers relish them too and wish for a few more. Perlimplin's emotional awakening at the heart of the opera when the nightingale sings, on clarinet, and later when a sultry trumpet solo emerges from the dark of the auditorium, offer rare moments of repose.

In fact, Holt's handling of instrumental colour and texture is one of the more assured features in a score whose allusions to Spanish music and its idiom is one of the work's most fascinating and attractive features. Where Lorca chose a Scarlatti sonata for the prologue of the play, Holt opens the opera with an extended piano solo for Perlimplin, a pre-echo perhaps of his short, exotically scored piece for piano and chamber orchestra *Eco-Pagan*, engagingly premiered the following day at Huddersfield by Rolf Hind and the London Sinfonietta.

LENNIE WALKER

## Shaggy dog tales of the half-unexpected

GIL SCOTTERON long ago established a tradition of missing his own gigs. Half the thrill of turning up to a concert has always been finding out whether the man actually remembered to get on the plane. The Internet is littered with the disappointed wallings of first-timers who have never been stood up before. "Yup, happens a lot," reply the battle-scarred. "Keep booking - one day he'll be there." Well, it seems like the day has finally arrived.

They kept us waiting but, one by one, members of his band Amnesia Express drifted absent-mindedly

on to the stage. For 15 minutes only the bassist remembered to play then, gradually, the conga-player floated in still eating an apple; the drummer tried to finish his roll-up in time to welcome sax, flute, keyboards and, long after, lead guitar. Then the beaniepated figure of Gil Scott-Heron leaped down the stairs.

"Hey, slow down," he croons. "Your life is coming soon." He looks several centuries older than his 49 years: hair tumbling in grizzled waves from a black leather cap, bones jutting out from his too-big grey suit, cheeks cadaverously

### POP/POETRY

GIL SCOTTERON  
JAZZ CAFE  
LONDON

gaunt. He is all angles, but his voice still slides smooth as sex.

A toothy, top-sided grin takes up his whole face. This man is happy. He is done with setting the agenda and will take requests - such as the soaring, feel-better jazz anthem "Lady Day and John Coltrane" (to Billie Holiday and the great tenor saxophonist - "Ever feel you've lost

your way... they'll wash your troubles away"). The audience is surprisingly white and smoochily inclined; they want "Winter in America". He obliges via a long ecological preamble based on an African folk-tale: "Wonder how summer's doing? We'll just assume that he will be back. Then winter decides to stay."

Gone are those consciousness-raising caustic directives of "Inner City Blues" or "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised". He is in mellow mood. "You got to take care of somebody. Take hold of your life. You got

to believe in your brother. Raise your hands if you believe in peace."

After a break he lolls through one of his shaggy-dog monologues - a genial Maureen Lipman-style digression on the importance of "getting an ology". He loves linguistic conundrums: "Do women still go every three weeks or so for what they call a permanent? Weather man says there's a 50:50 chance of rain; what you gonna do - take half an umbrella?" Then he launches into an anti-space-age eco-rant: "Space Shuttle - turning seasons upside down. Space Shuttle - raising hell

down on the ground. Hole in the Ozone layer - putting the fear back in atmosphere."

Basking in the fluttering waves of Brian Jackson's fusion-fired flute, and the frenzied duelling percussion, Scott-Heron smiles avuncularly down. "Celebrate your life!" he cries. Celebrate Gil Scott-Heron.

Gil Scott-Heron and Amnesia Express, Jazz Café, 3-5 Parkway, Camden, London NW1 (0171-916 8060) to Friday

JUDITH PALMER

## Less is more when every detail counts

THE IDEA that nothing succeeds like excess was comprehensively belied, for my taste, two years ago when the Romanian director, Silviu Purcarete, brought across his huge production of *Les Danaïdes*. This was his bold recreation of a tetralogy by Aeschylus, only the first part of which (*The Suppliants*) survives intact. How big the forces were in the original production is not known, but Purcarete seized on the scale of the story - in which the 50 virgin daughters of Danaos flee from their 50 hot-blooded male cousins and seek asylum in Argos - as a literal-minded justification for filling the stage with over 120 bodies. The result, though, was often more ludicrous than epic. De-individualised by their

sheer numbers, and performing synchronised antics, the chorus could have been taking part in a homage to Busby Berkeley.

There are no such lapses of taste in James Kerr's spare, focused staging of *The Suppliants* at the Gate. It's a production in which every little detail tells. This is evident from the start when the first of the 16-strong chorus arrives on the sand at one end of the set and hesitates before placing a bare foot on the long tiled floor that represents Argive land and possible sanctuary. This momentous transition is powerfully communicated.

Full of beautiful choral odes (music by Mick Sands) where the voices cascade over each other as

### THEATRE

THE SUPPLIANTS  
GATE THEATRE  
LONDON

they beseech Zeus for protection, the staging adroitly heightens a sense of the women's vulnerability. There is, for example, an unsettling contrast between the classical grey dresses of the daughters and the modern military khaki of David Oyelowo's excellently uneasy Argive king and his two henchmen. In one particularly fine sequence, the chorus express their relief at being granted asylum with a bout of high-spirited, tiddling horse-play, ending up in a giddy heap on the floor. At

that moment, their father, Danaos (Roy Sampson), spots the ship of their pursuers on the horizon. The lighting dims, leaving a horrifyingly suggestive darkness at one end of the set. The women back away from this slowly like a single organism of traumatised panic until, in another disturbing touch, the same actors who played their potential salvation, re-appear as the brutish yobs who want to carry them off.

An eloquent simplicity is the hallmark of the production's effects. The women's request confronts the Argive king with a dreadful dilemma: to comply is to risk belligerent reprisals from their cousins; to refuse is to risk the wrath of their protector, Zeus. To reinforce their

threat to hang themselves from the statues of the gods, the chorus here unbind the decorative cords from their arms, hold them aloft, and let them drop to the floor in a gesture pregnant with warning.

Apart from the sentimental use of a little girl, which seems like an insurance policy against our not being sufficiently moved by the adult plight, only one thing marred my appreciation. On the night I attended the production, in which there are long, charged silences, there was the distracting thump of disco music from the pub below - a home-made Brechtian alienation effect no one could have bargained for.

To 12 Dec (0171-229 5387)

PAUL TAYLOR



'The Suppliants': heightens the sense of women's vulnerability

Portrait  
artist as  
Andre Villiers' photo  
of France offer an  
artist's dom





# HEALTH

When we hurt ourselves, we often try to alleviate the pain by rubbing the affected area. Massage therapy works on exactly the same principle. In part six of his series on complementary medicine, Professor Edzard Ernst explains its benefits

## Aaaah, there's the rub

More often than not, when we hurt ourselves, we rub the injured spot. Massage is like a reflex whereby we alleviate pain. It is hardly surprising therefore that massage therapy has existed at all times in virtually all cultures - massage is probably the oldest of all medical interventions.

Today, several forms of massage exist (see Box 1). In Europe, the classic muscular massage, often called "Swedish massage", is the most popular method. It employs a variety of manual techniques to treat muscles, subcutaneous tissue, tendons and ligaments. Usually, the aim is to loosen up these structures in order to decrease pain and increase mobility. Swedish massage is entirely mainstream on the European continent while, in the UK, it still falls under the umbrella of complementary medicine.

Lymph drainage is an extremely gentle stroking massage applied over the lymph nodes and vessels to increase the flow of lymph fluid which in turn deflates tissues and is claimed to increase health and well-being in several ways.

Lymph drainage can be particularly helpful in certain cases of swelling, for example, after breast operations which damaged or removed the lymph nodes in the area of the armpit.

There are also several Asian variations of the massage theme. Shiatsu, for instance, is a unique Japanese cross of acupressure and massage. Shiatsu therapists stimulate acupressure points by applying strong physical pressure. The rationale for this therapy is based on the principles of acupuncture, as outlined in part one of this series.

What happens during a massage session? After the therapist has assessed the complaint, they will ask the patient to undress. Depending on the type of massage therapy, treatment can be moderately painful, but more often than not, the sensation is strangely agreeable and the experience is intensely relaxing.

People who panic at close physical contact with relative strangers could find massage therapy distressing. For others, such proximity may be a basis for establishing a good therapeutic relationship. Much of what massage therapists achieve therapeutically might be mediated through this mechanism.

Therapists would normally advise patients to come back for more. A typical series of treatments would comprise 6-12 sessions, each of which last between 20-30 minutes and cost £30-£50.

Today, about 3,500 massage therapists practise in Britain. Many are well-trained and belong to responsible professional bodies. But unfortunately, there are no guarantees. To avoid problems, it is advisable to ask therapists about their training, experience and indemnity cover. It is also recommended to inform the GP about massage, or any other complementary therapy. Not many will have in-depth knowledge about this type of treatment to give further advice. Most physiotherapists are trained in massage and are a good source of information.

During recent years, the nursing profession has also developed a keen interest in massage.

What is it for? There is reasonably good research demonstrating numerous effects of classical massage therapy (see box 2). These findings are interesting but they do not readily translate into clinical effectiveness. For instance, if experimental data suggest that massage therapy increases the en-



Massage is not only good for relieving muscular stress and strain - research shows that it helps to alleviate anxiety and depression

Bill Fleming

### PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Increases blood and lymph flow.
- Alters the composition of blood.
- Increases endorphin levels.
- Enhances immune defence mechanisms of the body.
- Changes certain hormone levels in the body.
- Reduces muscle tone.

#### Useful reading:

■ Vickers A. *Massage and Aromatherapy*, Chapman Hall, London 1998 (for those with prior knowledge);  
Downing G. *The Massage Book*, Penguin, 1974.

dorphin (natural painkiller of the body) levels, this does not necessarily mean that massage eases clinical pain. Too often, researchers - of either complementary or mainstream medicine - are interested in physiological effects, while patients simply want to get better.

On the European continent, massage therapy is used predominantly for musculoskeletal problems, particularly back pain. A recent survey from Germany showed that

pain sufferers rate massage as one of the most effective treatments to reduce pain - more effective than most mainstream analgesics. This notion is also backed up by several clinical trials. Unquestionably, we need more trials to be sure but the best evidence to date suggests that classical massage treatment is an effective way to reduce musculoskeletal pain.

Anybody who has ever received a massage will confirm that it relaxes both the mind and the body. Clinical trials show that it helps against muscle stiffness, for instance after physical over-exertion. For this reason, massage is often used in sports medicine.

More importantly, research from the US shows that massage can be helpful in treating anxiety disorders, in reducing stress and alleviating the symptoms of depression. Other indications are listed in Box 3.

More exotic massage techniques, such as shiatsu, are far less evidence-based. There are few clinical trials to draw firm conclusions about their effectiveness.

What are the potential risks? If done correctly, massage incurs very few risks indeed. Too forceful a technique has caused tissue injuries, such as bruising or bone fractures, but these are extreme rarities. As with all complementary therapies, harm may be done when the therapist is not fully aware of the limits of massage therapy.

Even for relatively well-established indications, such as back pain or anxiety, massage is not a cure in itself, but has a role as a symptomatic treatment. This means that it might temporarily ease the complaint but cannot eliminate its underlying cause. Whenever massage is advocated as a cure, there is a considerable potential for doing harm.

Massages should not be applied in the presence of traumatic or infectious skin lesions. They are also contraindicated in cases of pleuritis or other serious venous problems. It goes without saying that severely ill patients are usually not well suited for massage treatments.

#### Conclusion

Massage therapy can be a helpful

treatment for several types of musculoskeletal problems including back pain. Massage can also alleviate anxiety and depression. Furthermore, it is largely devoid of unwanted side-effects and is usually agreeable and relaxing. If you can afford it, you might give it a try. Some professional organisations, The London and Counties Society of Physiologists

330 Lytham Road  
Blackpool FY4 1DW

Fellowship of Sports Masseurs and Therapists  
B M Soigneur  
London  
WC1N 3XX

■ *'People are Pets'*, by Hunter J and Kayne S, which was mentioned in last week's article on homeopathy, is available from the British Homeopathic Association, 27a Devonshire Street, London, W1N 1RJ

### TYPES OF MASSAGE THERAPY

- Classical muscular massage.
- Colon massage (gentle massage over the abdomen to regulate bowel movements).
- Connective tissue massage (to influence internal organs).
- Lymph drainage.
- Roling (American technique applying intense pressure, often painful).
- Shiatsu (Japanese acupressure point massage).
- Underwater massage (use of water pressure instead of manual techniques).

## Tell the truth about drugs

Designer drugs are not a cause for panic, argues Jeremy Laurance

A KILLER 33 times the strength of Ecstasy, screamed the *Mirror's* headline last week. Cue new panic over designer drugs which, reports in most papers said, had already killed three.

We are suckers for this kind of thing and we swallow the warnings every time. On this occasion, the deadly drugs were identified as DOB, a more powerful version of Ecstasy, and also known as Golden Eagle, and Flatliners, a substance said to trigger out-of-the-body experiences.

Never mind that these drugs have been around for at least 10 years: parents read these stories and quake, as they are

supposed to do. But how do teenagers read them? How, in particular, do the estimated 500,000 who take Ecstasy of a weekend, react? They have a mind-blowing experience, discover what they swallowed was allegedly a dangerous poison, and react as anyone would - they don't believe it.

And they are right. The only drug powerful enough to kill a human being in a single tablet is cyanide. Professor John Henry, head of accident and emergency medicine at St Mary's Hospital, London, and former medical director of the National Poisons Information Service, made a lot of people unhappy when he pointed out

this inconvenient fact at the time Leah Betts died. She, you may remember, collapsed after taking half an Ecstasy tablet on her 17th birthday in November 1995, which then triggered a huge campaign against the evils of the drug.

What killed Leah Betts was the huge quantity of water she drank to counteract the drug's effects. The water made her brain swell, causing loss of consciousness, coma and death. To claim that she died of Ecstasy is like saying that a person who fell asleep holding a lit cigarette and set fire to his house died of smoking.

Young people who have taken Ecstasy and then danced all night in a crowded club with too little liquid to drink have died of overheating. The answer is to drink plenty of water, preferably with salt added. Leah, who had not been danc-

ing, believed water was an antidote to Ecstasy. It is not: it is an antidote to dancing.

The truth about the latest panic emerged at Plymouth coroners court last Thursday. Private Steven Evans, 21, the soldier supposed to have been killed by the lethal new substance, Flatliners, had in fact binged on an enormous cocktail of drugs taken over a period of 48 hours. The post-mortem found evidence of alcohol, opiates, cocaine, methadone, cannabis, two types of ecstasy and the new drug called 4-MTA (Flatliners). His body finally gave out.

The panic about drugs is disproportionate to the harm they cause. Drinking by young people causes 10 times more damage, yet its dangers are ignored. As the quantity drunk has been rising, the average age at which drinking begins has been falling. On average, boys aged 13 drink four pints of beer a week, or equivalent, and girls aged 13 drink three pints. Alcohol produces violent behaviour, is implicated in a third of male suicides and also leads to unprotected sex.

The hardest task for any parent of teenagers is to keep the lines of communication open (I know, I am one). To do that, maintaining credibility is critical. We have to tell the truth about drugs or we will not be believed. If we are not believed, we lose the only means we have to protect our children.

## Sniffing around for the cause of a bad smell

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

MY ELDERLY mother frequently complains that she can smell an unpleasant odour that no one else is aware of. What can cause this?

This is a surprisingly common complaint that can be very distressing. It can be caused by a variety of physical or mental problems. Diseases that affect the nose, such as sinus infections and nasal polyps, can cause smell disturbances and these should be checked for first. A thorough ear, nose and throat examination should be able to pick up most of these problems, but sometimes X-rays of the sinuses or even magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans are necessary.

The next place to look is at the teeth and gums. Dental disease, particularly infections and denture problems, can produce unpleasant smells. Very rarely, head injuries or even brain tumours can cause smell disturbance by damaging the olfactory nerves which transmit smells from the nose to the brain. If no physical cause is found, an underlying depression may be contributing to your mother's problem, and it could improve if she is treated for depression.

MY THREE-MONTH-OLD daughter is developing a strawberry mark under her chin. We have been advised to leave it alone, but it is very embarrassing and unsightly and seems to be getting bigger. Can it be removed? Strawberry marks, which are also known as cavernous haemangiomas, are collections of blood vessels that can occur anywhere on the body but are common around the head and neck of babies. They usually appear soon after birth and then increase in size, often quite rapidly. For the next two or three years they tend to

remain fairly stable, and they then gradually begin to shrink and disappear. By the age of five they are nearly always gone, although they can leave a slightly dimpled appearance on the skin. It is not sensible to have it removed for two reasons: first, it will disappear by itself; and second, an operation will inevitably leave a scar. Patient waiting will produce the best cosmetic result.

MY PREMENSTRUAL tension is so bad that it is beginning to affect me at work. I get aggressive and intolerant and this can last for two weeks. I have tried evening primrose oil, vitamins and hormones, none of which help much. Are there any diets that might help me? A low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet can help the symptoms of premenstrual syndrome. You should avoid caffeine and alcohol. The carbohydrates that you eat should be unrefined, complex carbohydrates, which means that you should avoid sugar (both white and brown) and foods that contain sugars. Some women benefit by eating these carbohydrates at regular three-hourly

intervals. It may take several months before you notice the effects, so it is worth persisting. You can get more information from NAPS (National Association for Premenstrual Syndrome), 7 Swift's Court, High Street, Seal, Kent TN15 0EG. Their helpline telephone is 01732 780012. They provide individual telephone counsellors, including male counsellors for partners of PMS sufferers.

Write to: A Question of Health, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL; fax 0171-393 2182; or e-mail to [drkavalier@independent.co.uk](mailto:drkavalier@independent.co.uk). Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

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JP 11/20/98



# The mother of all dances



Nobody is sure of the origins of belly-dancing but teacher Hania Porucznik believes it formed part of birthing ceremonies in ancient Egypt

Philip Meech

If belly-dancing does not immediately spring to mind as effective pain-relief when giving birth, think again. A group of expectant mothers at the Active Birth Centre discovered it to be just that. By Katrin Levy

A dozen women are tilting their hips and circling their stomachs, in time with the Eastern music. But this is no ordinary belly-dancing class: all the women are heavily pregnant.

"The movements seem very natural and comfortable and in keeping with what you could do with a huge bump out front," says Colleen Larmarque, who started the class when she was eight months pregnant. "We all felt like sexy vixens slinking around the room."

Hania Porucznik, who is teaching the class at the Active Birth Centre in London, became interested in Egyptian dance seven years ago. "I went to see a performance of it and I immediately thought, 'Yes, that's what I want to do,'" she says.

At the Active Birth Centre, the dancing is being taught as a way of alleviating back pain in late pregnancy and to help cope during labour. But, according to Hania, the benefits of belly-dancing extend beyond an easier and less painful labour. "The movements open the

body up, which is useful for later on, but it's also very good for your posture, health and self-esteem."

Belly-dancing is becoming increasingly popular in Britain and Europe generally, so it was no problem for Hania to track down night classes and workshops in order to learn the moves. "There are standard techniques that you learn, but you also bring a great deal of yourself to it," she says. "Women of any age, shape or fitness can do it, and look beautiful doing it."

However, even Hania hadn't considered the possibility of pregnant women belly-dancing until her sister-in-law, Helen Macnaught, became pregnant with her first child two years ago.

"Years ago, I read an article by an American dancer who had attended a Berber birthing ceremony," recalls Hania. "A special tent had been erected especially for the birth and the men of the village were banished to the outskirts."

"The village women gathered around the pregnant woman, eating, drinking tea and listening to music. When the woman entered the first

stage of labour, she started dancing and undulating her stomach around, and all her neighbours joined in, imitating her."

"After a while, when she entered the second stage of labour and got the urge to push, she went in to the

we'd try it. It was the best thing in the world. It took all the pain away."

It took seven hours in total, from the time Helen's waters broke, to the time she gave birth, which is pretty remarkable as many first-time births can take anywhere be-

mums-to-be. A few of the sharper Egyptian movements were inappropriate for pregnant women, but after a bit of modification, Hania was ready to give her first class.

"I had 20 women in front of me, and amazingly, they picked the movements up straightaway," she says. "It often takes non-pregnant women months to learn what to do, but the class just seemed to have an affinity for it."

"It was lovely. They started to dance, their bodies started to move and after two minutes, every single one of them had a smile on their face and their eyes were shining."

Colleen Larmarque started the classes when she was eight months pregnant. "I'd done ballet, jazz and tap, but I hadn't belly-danced before my pregnancy," she says. "Every-one was a bit embarrassed at the beginning, but that soon evaporated and we just had a lot of fun."

Unlike Helen, Colleen experienced quite a difficult labour. But she would still recommend Egyptian dancing as a way of alleviating back pain in the last months of pregnancy, keeping supple and generally

relaxing the body. This is a view that even the traditional medical establishment is starting to share.

"I've spoken to midwives in the delivery room who have been amazed at the pain relief it affords," says Hania. "Many midwives will tell a woman in labour to stand up and circle her hips around anyway to help the baby's rotation and natural descent. So they are usually understanding of women who want to take it a little further."

Belly-dancing is not dangerous, but to be on the safe side Hania only teaches during the second trimester, once the pregnancy has stabilised, and asks participants to get the permission of their GPs before coming to the class.

"No one knows how Egyptian dance originally came about, but my experiences with teaching it have made me think that perhaps it originally started off as part of a birthing ceremony," says Hania.

"It looks like the most natural thing in the world. If something looks that beautiful, you can probably assume that it's also doing your body some good."

Many midwives will tell a woman in labour to stand up and circle her hips around to help the baby's natural descent

middle of the tent, squatted and pushed the baby out. At the time, I just thought it was interesting, but when Helen became pregnant, I started thinking about it again."

Helen, 29, wanted to be an active participant in her child's birth.

"Throughout the pregnancy, I was doing yoga and Thai meditation with Hania, but not belly-dancing," she says. "But there was music in the background when I started going into labour, and we thought

tween eight and 36 hours. "I was only in hospital for two hours, and there were no forceps, cuts or tears," Helen says. "It was painful, but the dance movements helped me to cope with the pain and kept my mind off it. The only times that it started to feel too intense was when I sat still."

Helen's experience inspired Hania to contact the Active Birth Centre to see if they would be interested in a belly-dancing class for

## Warning: exercise can damage your health

People starting fitness programmes often think they can do more than they should. By Roger Dobson

GETTING FIT can seriously damage your health. Exercise may be all very well for keeping the heart and lungs in shape, but other parts of the body are losing out in the sprint to get fit.

Backs and necks are getting strained, knees damaged, ankles twisted and bones cracked by the stresses and strains of running and jogging and myriad other activities that have become popular over the last 20 years in the fight against flab.

Participants also risk getting a variety of specific problems including jogger's nephritis, runner's knee, golfer's groin, parasternal anky, runner's claw toe, and thrower's elbow. And even worse, there are the diseases waiting to be caught from fellow enthusiasts, from

conjunctivitis to legionella. New research has found that there are hidden dangers in having too much of it, and sports medicine specialists now want the emphasis to be on quality rather than quantity.

A major problem only now being recognised is that many people embark on fitness programmes with an over-optimistic enthusiasm and assume the body is far fitter than it really is.

If the Government is propagating healthy exercise for everyone, the message must be taken in the context that some people will take health advice to an extreme, says Professor Michael Horton, head of the bone centre at University College, London, and the organiser of a conference on the impact of exercise on the skeleton. While the density and strength of bones is boosted by exercise, too much of it can lead to a weaker skeleton as people become older. Women are particularly at risk: evidence from the USA shows that as many as 70 per cent of young women students who took part in college



Jogging on hard surfaces is risky David Ashdown

athletics had irregular menstrual cycles caused by exercise and poor diet and as a result were building up problems of osteoporosis in later life. Bones grow and adapt to pressure by increasing the strength in those areas where it is needed. Football players have a very dense ankle structure and leg bones as a consequence both of running and of impact.

The danger of side effects from too much exercise is not the only problem facing those who want to get fit. There are risks associated with exercising while the skeleton is unfit and unprepared, and there is

also the problem of choosing the right exercise.

"Swimming can increase muscle mass and help with the respiratory system, but it has no effect on the skeleton. Squash on the other hand is good because the rapid changes of movement increase bone mass. Activities with high impact and big changes in movement are best for the skeleton. Every time we put a foot on the floor the physical effect is sensed by the skeleton and it will adapt," says Professor Horton.

"One of the main problems is that if you take someone who

is sedentary and put them in a training regime, then a substantial number may be at risk of injuries like stress fractures because of their immature skeleton. The message is that exercise is good for you, but your initial health has to be taken into consideration and you need to be aware that at extremes it can cause damage, particularly when taken without any preparation."

Prof John Davies, professor of sports medicine and medical adviser to the Welsh Rugby Union, says that 90 per cent of sports injuries involve damage to soft tissue, including sprains and strains. "We see a lot of pulled muscles and stress fractures and a lot of it is down to poor technique and people going at it too hard without any graduated regime," he says.

"Choosing the right activity is important. Some people, for instance, are built for running and others are not. There are alternatives to running and there is now evidence that power walking is as beneficial but without the jarring effects."

Over time, these jarring effects can have a serious impact

on the cartilage of the knee leading to arthritis, and urban joggers running on hard surfaces are thought to be most at risk. Apart from the risk of trauma and long-term bone problems, there is also the danger of picking up an infection from other enthusiasts. These infections are known collectively as the changing-room syndrome.

"In the changing room people are in close proximity to each other in a crowded, moist atmosphere, and it lends itself to the transmission of a whole range of respiratory infections - sore throats, colds, fungal infections, verrucae and so on," says Prof Greg McLauchie, professor of sports medicine at Sunderland University.

And his research shows that the most unlikely places can be sources of infection. After several swimmers and curlers at a Scottish leisure complex went down with a form of legionellosis, investigators, eventually found that the airborne infection had travelled all the way along the pipes and vents of the ventilation system from a contaminated Jacuzzi.

## Glad to be mad

OLIVER JAMES



BRITAIN ON THE COUCH

IN ALL of our lives, hardly a week goes by without hearing about a fresh crop of emotional problems from intimates and colleagues - the daughter with eating disorders, the depressed friend, the couple who get along dreadfully. Yet we sustain the illusion that it is abnormal to be neurotic and unhappy.

Comparisons between the depressed and undepressed show that the latter protect themselves with a bubble of positive illusions. They believe bad things are less likely to happen to them and they exaggerate how much others like them. But depressives dwell on the grim realities.

Self-deception is the foundation of mental health, a normal madness concealing the very different reality: statistically speaking, the majority of us have severe psychological problems.

In an American survey done in the early Eighties, 19,000 people were randomly selected and interviewed by psychiatrists.

Twenty per cent suffered from a full-blown mental illness but the incidence of more loosely defined problems (such as the 50 per cent of adults who suffer anxious attachment - an irrational fear of rejection or abandonment) was much higher. Surveys in this country have similar results - not so odd when you think about the people you know. How many have not suffered from depression, explosive anger, compulsions, irrational anxieties, eating disorders, sexual problems and so on? How many could you honestly say were well-balanced and fulfilled?

Almost everyone is riddled with insecurities. Maybe their dad or mum basically hated them, maybe they were the stupid one in the family, maybe they have a Grand Canyon-sized chip on their shoulder - everyone has their tale of woe. But we do not have to lie to ourselves about it. Truth and reality are better-quality experiences, even if they are horrid, than lies and fantasy. Of course, it will always be a matter of degree how much reality we can bear. But if we could face the fact that our life is liable to be flawed we might feel less let down when we are forced to confess that it has gone pear-shaped. If we started from the assumption that psychological problems are the norm, we might be less disillusioned when reality pops our bubble.

Oliver James's book *'Britain on the Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer'* is out in paperback (Arrow, £7.99).



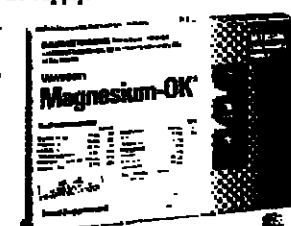
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# Thanks a million, John

The critics hate it, but DJ John Peel has more than one million listeners for *Home Truths*. By Paul McCann

John Peel played Daniel O'Donnell and Shakin' Stevens on his radio show this weekend. Not because he has had a musical taste transplant with my granny, but because he is front man for the most innovative and controversial show in Radio 4's new schedule - *Home Truths*.

The show, at 9am on Saturday mornings, is an exploration of the ordinary. It roams over the terrain of domestic life, nudging gently at the minutiae of the world to uncover wonderful real stories and much family folklore. The item requiring a Shakin' Stevens song was a feature about couples who had broken up because of their opposing musical tastes - making radio from the Bill Murray statement that the world is divided into people who like Neil Diamond and people who don't.

*Home Truths* has divided Radio 4 listeners into those who love it and those who hate it. It has been attacked by some of those opposed to the network's new schedule as not about anything - as if *Just a Minute* is "about" anything. In fact it is about real people, something of a rarity in today's celebrity-obsessed media. Much of the resentment is simply down to the fact that it replaced the fawning, but venerable, *Sport On Four* and travel show *Breakaway*.

The feature on couples with divergent musical tastes will not die with its appearance on *Home Truths*. Peel encourages listeners to contribute with their own take on anything they hear on the show. An item about love letters has been kept alive for six weeks because of the anecdotes that have been pouring in. Other topics to run and run include the lies we tell to children - one man confessed to telling his four-year-old that, if he unscrewed his belly button, his bottom would fall off - and sings, which the producers had to call a halt to because it threatened to take over the show.

It is this tendency to allow listeners to decide what the show is about that makes *Home Truths* unique. Unlike phone-ins, it is not filled with the wider prejudices of taxi drivers who can be bothered to call. Instead the production team is able to filter through the 400-plus responses it gets each week from the country's most articulate audience.

In each programme there are three or four interviews recorded by Peel with a listener and, usually, a few columns by writers like Tom Bussman, Sue Limb and Anne Ewington and features recorded by reporters - all of it interspersed with listeners' e-mails or voice mails and Peel's deadpan delivery.

Despite what Radio 4 traditionalists think of having a disc jockey on their frequency, Peel, now 58, is the perfect presenter for the show. A man who lists "staring out of the window" under his recreations in *Who's Who* has an immediate affinity with the ordinary wonders of life.

"I have to be careful not to sound pretentious," says the most down-to-earth man in British broadcasting, "but I always believe you can learn more from the study of the small details. You could stop anybody in the street and they could tell you something that would take your breath away. It's that 'good Lord, really' effect I'm looking for."

"Anyway I always got rather awestruck when I had to interview celebrities. I would ask them when the tour starts and when the LP comes out and then I wouldn't have anything else to ask."

On Saturday's show Peel referred to his listeners as the "*Home Truths* congregation" and there is a feeling of inclusion when you listen to him - just as there was for the generations brought up on his Radio 1 show.

to receive an OBE, although modesty would only allow him to tell his listeners he was getting a "Hedgerow Heritage Badge".

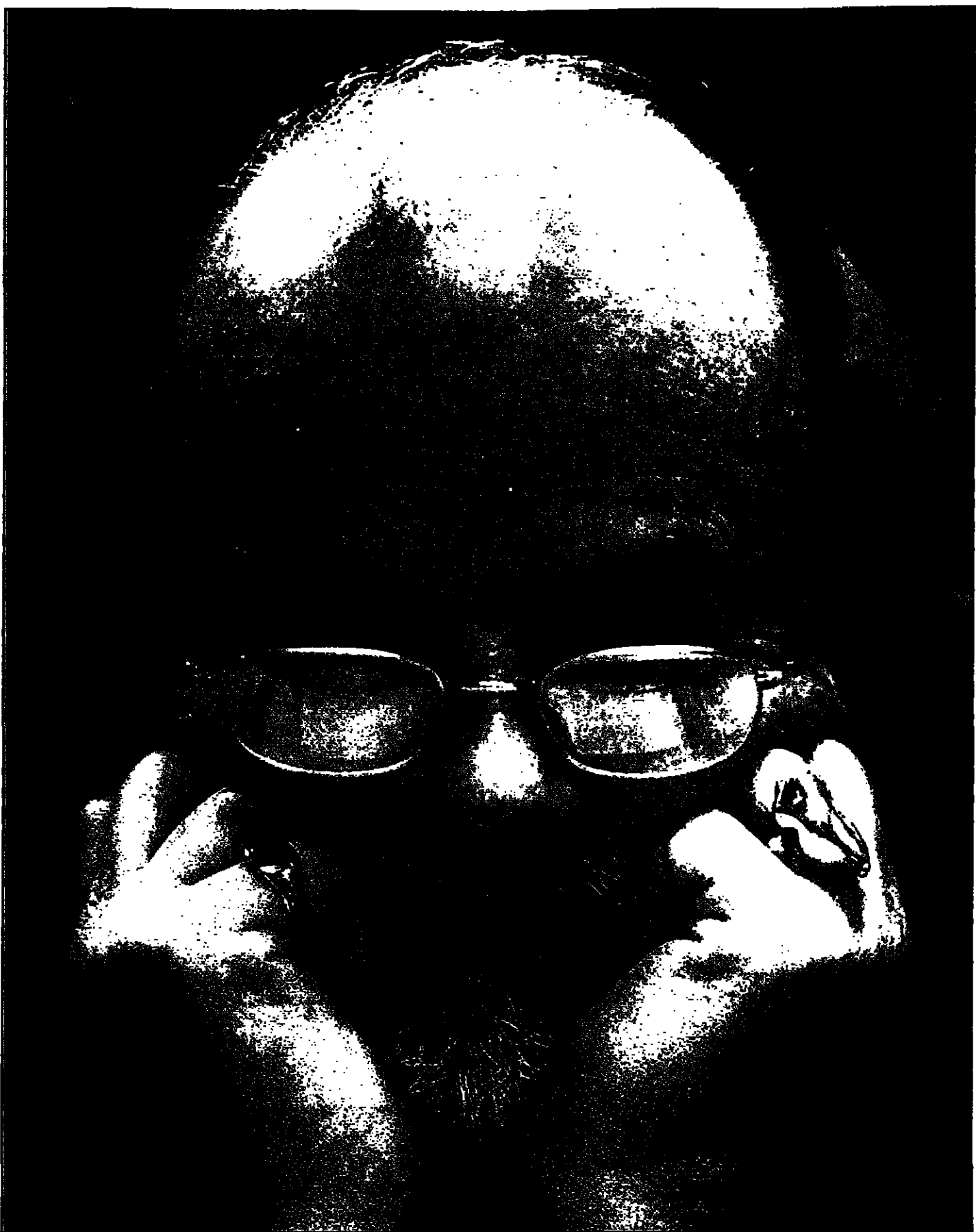
"I discussed it with my kids and we decided what would be the point of not accepting it? I would only end up in the pub telling people: 'I turned down an OBE you know.' Also I've got something to hand back when I object to the ravages of Blairism... alternatively it is something to have stripped from me when they catch me with three air hostesses and a goat somewhere off the M1."

*Home Truths* marks the rebirth of *Offspring*, a similar programme about families that won several awards during its few short series on Radio 4. However, the hour-long format and full-year commission for *Home Truths* allow listeners to build up more of a relationship with the programme and, crucially, get used to its interactive nature. Each week responses get more numerous and the audience grows: it is now more than a million.

Peel, who also hosted *Offspring*, was thought ideal because of his inclusive style of broadcasting and because his *Radio Times* column had always been full of references to his home life - wife Sheila, known as "pig" because of her laugh, and four children are often the subject of anecdotes on *Home Truths*.

"I try to check with them first, but I occasionally get 'Oh, for God's sake, dad' for mentioning some things." Then to illustrate what they have to put up with he launched into an anecdote that could only embarrass the hell out of his youngest daughter, Flossie, if repeated.

He once said his family's main reaction to seeing him on TV was to shout "Yeah! New shoes!" in recognition of another pay cheque. The gentle magic of the painfully open Peel and his *Home Truths* congregation should ensure the Peel children at last earn their new shoes.



Radio 4 traditionalists may hate John Peel, but his inclusive style of broadcasting has proved a big hit

Andrew Buurman

## Who will buy the Dome?

Sholto Douglas-Home is a man with a mission. But, amid public scepticism and press hostility, is it an impossible one? By Helen Jones

YOU MIGHT be forgiven for thinking that Sholto Douglas-Home has got it all. He was conceived in Frank Sinatra's home and old Blue Eyes was his godfather. His wedding was featured in *Tatler* and his Chelsea home has graced the pages of *Hello!* His great-uncle Alec Douglas-Home was prime minister, Diana, Princess of Wales was his second cousin, Michael Howard is his stepfather. The list of connections goes on and on, and for all we know his pet pony may well have been Red Rum.

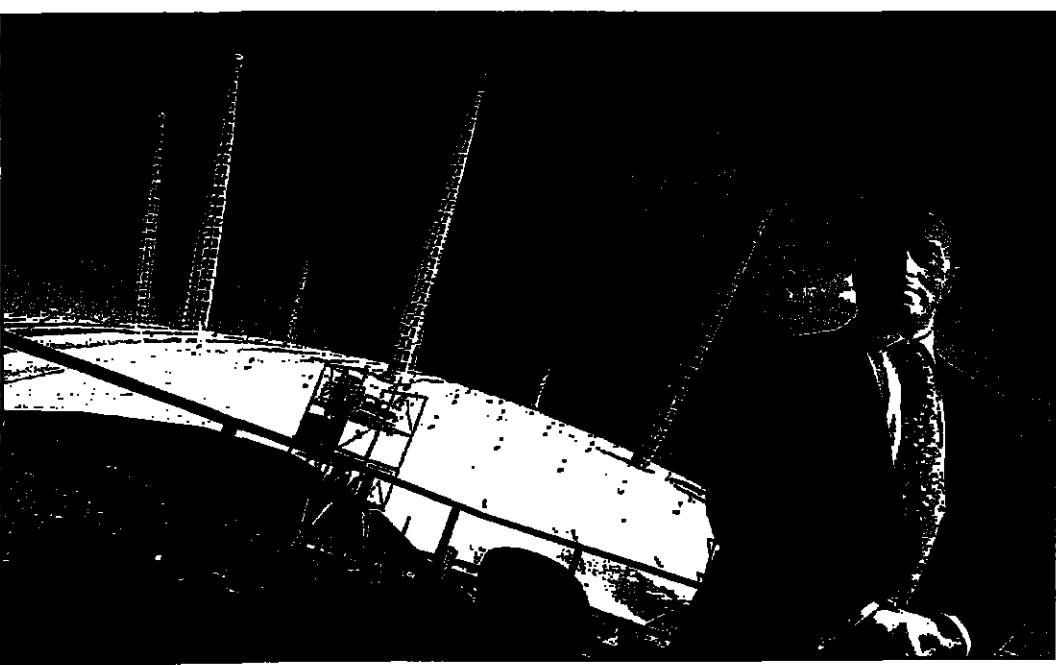
He's also got potentially the worst job in Britain - he is the marketing and communications director for the Millennium Dome.

Douglas-Home is on secondment from BT, where he was head of advertising and controlled a budget worth an estimated £100m a year. He admits he has taken a huge gamble and that he approached the Millennium job "with a degree of trepidation" but adds: "As each day goes by, I'm more and more reassured by the quality of the people here, their complete dedication and enthusiasm and their ability to ignore the inaccurate, mischievous and potentially demoralising stories that seem to be put around about the Dome."

His task is a daunting one. With an ad budget of £30m he has to sell at least 12 million tickets in the face of public scepticism and press hostility. "On the one hand it's a fantastic opportunity, but on the other we have very little time and it's a very pressured environment in the full public eye. It's a fantastic job but not the easiest thing in the world," he says.

So is he up to it? Richard Hytner, the managing director of the ad agency Publicis, who has worked closely with him in the past, says: "He's a class act and, given his background, he's not daunted by anyone or anything." Jeremy Miles, the board account director at BT's ad agency, Abbott Mead Vickers BBD, says, "He's very good at avoiding pitfalls", while another source adds: "He's a huge name-dropper and a loves mingling with the great and the good, but he's also very sharp and adept at company politics."

This political guile is likely to stand him in good stead. Stephen Bayley, who resigned last year as creative director of the Millennium



Sholto Douglas-Home of the Millennium Experience, in front of the Dome

Brian Harris

Dome, says in *Labour Camp*, his vitriolic account of his days there: "It was not run like the creative business it was intended to be but as a tightly controlled function of government." The politically astute Douglas-Home remains tight-lipped: "I don't want to talk about that." Nor will he be drawn on potential sponsors. "That is the commercial director's area but we are

the positive aspects of the project. Douglas-Home is confident the public can be won over, despite a recent Gallup poll for *The Daily Telegraph* suggesting that three-quarters of the public have no intention of visiting the Dome and that two-thirds believe it is a waste of money. "There are certain myths that need to be destroyed. One is that the Dome is being built with

money that should go to hospitals. As everyone knows, National Lottery money is not used to pay for state-funded initiatives like the National Health. And [other polls say] it's a very small number - less than 20 per cent - who have no intention of coming."

NMEC will run its first campaign this Christmas through the ad agency M&C Saatchi. The ads won't feature the Dome at all but are intended to be inspiring. "We want to

*'It's a fantastic opportunity but we have very little time and it's a pressured environment in the full public eye'*

getting close to £120m worth of sponsorship - double the amount ever raised in this country before."

However, he is very keen to talk about how the Dome is perceived abroad. "The international press interest is staggering and there is a realisation that no one else is doing anything on this scale." In a bid to get British newspapers "on side", the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) is holding monthly press briefings to present

the positive aspects of the project. Douglas-Home is confident the public can be won over, despite a recent Gallup poll for *The Daily Telegraph* suggesting that three-quarters of the public have no intention of visiting the Dome and that two-thirds believe it is a waste of money. "There are certain myths that need to be destroyed. One is that the Dome is being built with

## Why no news is bad news for Scotland

The BBC's decision to reject a separate six o'clock news for Scotland has angered nationalists. By Jane Robins

WHEN THE news broke last week that the BBC was hostile to granting Scotland its own six o'clock news, the reaction north of the border was immediate. The papers denounced the decision as London-based arrogance. A cartoon in *Scotland on Sunday* showed the director-general, Sir John Birt, as a puppeteer controlling the actions of the BBC Scotland boss, John McCormick, and the presenter, Sally Magnusson. Anger was quickly apparent in the BBC's Glasgow newsroom - and there was a certain amount of jubilation when a leading academic, Professor Lindsay Paterson, resigned from the BBC's broadcasting council for Scotland in protest. He immediately took to the airwaves, appearing on *Newsnight* to tell the world how unreasonable the BBC was being.

The political reaction was equally explosive - with the Scottish Nationalists declaring that "the decision flies in the face of the trend towards devolution and snacks of the worst type of London-centric control". Labour was roundly condemned as having forced the decision, with George Robertson and Helen Liddell singled out as betrayers of a vital Scottish cause.

In the south of England the whole fuss barely registered. Most London-based broadsheets failed to notice what was going on, and to Westminster-based journalists it may have seemed no more than a little local difficulty for the BBC.

But the English were, perhaps, too complacent. The furor over the "Scottish Six", as it is known, is a sign of bigger rows to come. "This isn't going to go away," said a BBC journalist. "It's the beginning of a major battle to devolve BBC Scotland away from England. The British Broadcasting Corporation won't exist in 10

years." That may be wishful thinking. But the SNP's pronouncements had a similar flavour: "The continued decline in viewing of BBC Scotland news will ensure that this flat from the board is merely one of the last gasps in distant dictatorial control rather than a blinding and long-lasting blockage."

BBC management is taking the threat of Scotland seceding from the corporation seriously - as was made clear last week when the controller of BBC2, Mark Thompson, was appointed to run the BBC regions. Mr Thompson is an ambitious man, a much-fancied contender as the next director-general. In the usual way of things, a move to the regions would be seen as a sideways step. But the word is that Sir John wants a big hit to sort out Scotland.

Scottish resentment about BBC control from London did not come about overnight. It is long-standing, and enmeshed with the feelings of disenfranchisement that grew up in a Labour-dominated country during 18 years of Conservative rule from Westminster. For years the Scots have been complaining that the nightly six o'clock news is full of distortion - when journalists talk of change in the country's education system or health service, they often fail to state that Scotland is excluded.

And when important events happen that have a heavily Scottish context, they do not necessarily make the news. When the Scotland Bill, which sets up the Scottish Parliament, passed into law, BBC journalists complained that the six o'clock news failed to report it.

The frustration last came to a head in 1995 when Tony Hall, the BBC's head of news and current affairs, announced that *Panorama* would broadcast an interview with John Major three days in advance of Scottish local elections, apparently impervious

to arguments that this would defy BBC rules on impartiality. The decision was seen as a crass trampling on Scottish sensitivities and was only overturned when opposition parties obtained an injunction from a Scottish court.

This time around, though, the stakes are higher. The SNP sees BBC Scotland as a key issue in its fight with Labour for control of the Scottish Parliament. It is unlikely to be placated by reassurances from the BBC that a host of new measures are being put in place to ensure better coverage of Scotland on the UK news and the promise of more money for Scottish programming for BBC networks.

Professor Paterson last week gave a hint of the way the confrontation might develop. It must, he said, be a priority of the new Scottish Parliament to lobby for powers over the regulation of broadcasting.

And, on the newsroom floor, there are also rebellious mutterings. Perhaps, say the gossips, Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, can be persuaded to encourage a Scottish revolt against paying the BBC licence fee. This is not as absurd as it sounds. For years, the BBC turned a blind eye to the fact that thousands of Catholics in Northern Ireland did not pay their licence fee. The last thing it needs is a Scottish boycott.

There is a growing feeling in Scotland that Labour, in granting devolution, might have inadvertently set the country on the road to independence. Hence the politicians' focus on the BBC as the one remaining national institution with aims to "unite the UK".

It could help Labour in strengthening the UK through better sensitivity on Scottish issues within a UK framework. On the other hand, mismanagement by Mr Thompson would play directly into the hands of the SNP.

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Recruitment Consultants



## NEW FILMS

### ANGEL SHARKS (15)

Director: Manuel Pradal  
Starring: Valeria Giacante, Frédéric Maigras  
Pradal's handsome debut feature has seductive surface qualities, and its disjointed scenes of adolescent decadence are engaging. But this isn't enough to keep you interested. Despite the spirited sex and violence, it's empty, pretentious stuff, a sunny triumph of form over content. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

### DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

Director: Dan Rosen  
Starring: Matthew Lillard  
First-time writer-director Rosen must have had some awful experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to double-cross and butcher each other, tempted by an obscure regulation that awards straight A-grades to room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### THE EEL (18)

Director: Shohei Imamura  
Starring: Koji Yakusho  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: Curzon Soho

### THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

Director: King Vidor  
Starring: Gary Cooper, Raymond Massey, Patricia Neal  
Vidor's monstrously overdesigned melodrama features a miscast Cooper as an architect who takes on Massey's evil corporate boss. Adapted from the novel by Ayn Rand, it uses Expressionistic camerawork and cod-Freudian symbolism to construct a bizarre moral message: that we should celebrate the young entrepreneur as a Nietzschean superman. Albert Speer for President, anyone? West End: Curzon Soho

### LES MISÉRABLES (12)

Director: Bill August  
Starring: Liam Neeson, Uma Thurman, Geoffrey Rush

Bille August turns Victor Hugo's enormous novel into an enormous film, that's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days. It's earnest, deferential and almost humourless - those who like their costume dramas to have a touch of camp will have to content themselves with a cameo by Nurse from *Blackadder* as Neeson's grunting, stuttering housekeeper. West End: Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys

### RONIN (15)

Director: John Frankenheimer  
Starring: Jean Reno, Robert De Niro, Sean Bean  
There's an air of knackered resignation about Frankenheimer's latest movie, an espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious silver suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. Sean Bean - as an Andy McNabb type, who uses quaint criminal slang like "swag" - is mercifully dispatched in the second reel. As dull as ditch-water. West End: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

### ROUNDERS (15)

Director: John Dahl  
Starring: Matt Damon, Edward Norton, John Malkovich  
Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of *The Last Seduction*, but it's certainly an improvement on his misnamed *Unforgettable*. Its main problem is that the golden-boy star, Matt Damon, is comprehensively out-acted by almost everyone else: by his co-star, Edward Norton, who brings an authentic shiftness to the role of card-sharp best mate; and by the monstrously hammy John Malkovich, as the Muscovite Mr Big. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

## GENERAL RELEASE

### ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. He provides the voice of worker-ant "Z", who breaks out of his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### BLADE (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-cracking bloodsucker. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

### THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE) (18)

Friedkin's seminal horror is still efficiently terrifying. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a fuel-fuelled journalistic assignment. Incident, caricature and lurid 1970s fashions are substituted for plot and character. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S. Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

### FIRE (15)

Deepa Mehta's Indian-Canadian co-production mounts a vibrant, at times potent, attack on the Indian family set-up, with its tale of a fractious New Delhi brood. West End: Curzon Soho

### HENRY FOOL (18)

Hal Hartley's marvellously skewed fable traces the fate of a piece of erotic verse which springs from the head of a lowly garbage man (James Urbaniak). Hartley's most humane, heartfelt film to date. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

### HOPE FLOATS (PG)

This winsome piece stars Sandra Bullock as a down-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gena Rowlands as her mum, Harry Connick Jr as a bashful handyman, and acres of bumper-sticker wisdom. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### INSOMNIA (18)

Dubbed a "film blanc" by its creator, *Insomnia* transplants noir stylistics to summertime Norway. The cop hero drifts into a mental meltdown as he probes a teenager's murder. West End: Metro

### THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING (NC)

Franz Reichle's documentary serves us up with a crash course in Tibetan medicine. The Dalai Lama and his personal doctor make for reliable sources, but the whole thing proves too info-heavy and indigestible. West End: Renoir

### LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Jeroen Krabbé's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Basisc family in 1970s Holland. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

### LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes \$500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

### MULAN (U)

A girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat, in one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new (romance with a middle-class health visitor). *My Name is Joe* brilliantly depicts a Britain caught below the poverty line. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

### THE ODD COUPLE II (15)

The follow-up to Neil Simon's 1960s flat-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. All manner of comedy set-pieces result, but the stars work hard to keep it upright. West End: Plaza

### A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Panton Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

### SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. Director Joe Dante draws some nice parallels with his own best film *Gremlins*. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### SNAKE EYES (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys

### THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller and Cameron Diaz star in this latest comedy from the writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's comedy about a man (Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been broadcast to the world. The film is very funny, due more to the cleverness of Andrew Niccol's script than to its star's presence. West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



### Film Liese Spencer

BY TURNS lyrical and brutal, erotic and absurdly comic, *The Eel* is a slippery film to categorise, but will please those who like to swim against the Hollywood mainstream. The latest work by veteran director Shohei Imamura, it stars Koji Yakusho as a Tokyo salaryman who spends eight years in prison for murdering his wife.

On selected release  
Left is big and flashy but just a little bit cold around the heart. Still, director Brian De Palma executes his complex cliché of a plot with technical brilliance - the film's worth seeing for his breathtaking opening shot alone.

### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

WITH SO MUCH attention paid to his arid monologues, it's easy to forget that Alan Bennett has written some peppy comedies in his time. Peter Hall's revival of *Kafka's Dick*, (below) first staged in 1986, suffers from some peculiar casting but loyally serves the one-liner-spinning scenario - in which Kafka, his publisher and parents are spirited into a would-be biographer's suburban lounge. Julia McKenzie shines as the frustrated housewife who blossoms in the under-endowed writer's company.

Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (0171-369 7734) 8pm  
Michael Grandage's production of *Twelfth Night* is perfectly thought-through from the opening roar of surf to the final sigh of wind. This is an *Illyria* where tempests rage as much within as without. The cast seems fully at ease with the text and the play's comic ebb and flow uncovers some good performances, particularly from Malcolm Sinclair's stiff-backed Malvolvo. Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0114-276 9922) 7.30pm

### Art Richard Ingleby

ONE-TIME painter of country house portraits, most notably both Balmoral and Highgrove for the Prince of Wales, has turned a little surreal in recent years. Hugh Buchanan's complex mingling of past and present (right) brings power stations and pylons into an otherwise classical world. Dramatic stuff. Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (0171-499 6870) to 3 Dec Partnerships & Practice explores the role of three educational institutions (Dartington, Leeds and Corsham) in the development of Modernism in Britain, and specifically St Ives between 1930 and 1950. Tulse St Ives, Portlanoor Beach, St Ives, Cornwall (01738 795431)



### Comedy James Rampton

AS A RULE, comic poetry - like performance art or avant-garde mime - is one of those artforms designed to fill mainstream audiences with dread and send them running for the cover of the nearest bar. John Hegley (right) is an exception, however. This is borne out by the fact that he came second to Spike Milligan in a recent BBC poll for the nation's favourite comic poet and - wait for it - fourth in a R4 survey to find the next Poet Laureate. Wallow in his hymns of praise to glasses and Luton Town FC.



Vaudevilleans, Hemmingsford Arms, London, N1 (0171-607 3303) 8.30pm  
For several years now, compère Laura Shavin has been hosting successful all-female bills at the Heretics Club. Tonight's interesting line up includes: Gina Ryan, Kai Nilsson, Caroline Bainbridge, and Amanda Dorman. Tut and Shave Cabaret, London N1 (0181-360 4818) 8.45pm

## CINEMA

### WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street  
Elizabeth 2.20pm, 5.20pm,  
8.10pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus/The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm  
Left Luggage 1.15pm, 3.40pm,  
6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.15pm  
Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm,  
8.20pm Rien Ne Va Plus 1.15pm,  
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly  
Circus/Circus Hamam/The Turkish Bath 1.20pm, 3.50pm,  
6.10pm, 8.35pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 3.45pm,  
6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
The Government 2pm, 8.20pm  
Hope Floats 1.15pm, 3.40pm,  
6.05pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly  
Circus/Angel Shark/Sharika (Marie Bale de Angles) 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.10pm,  
7.05pm, 9pm Le Boesse 1pm,  
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Hansel & Gretel 1.25pm, 3.50pm  
Low is the Devil 2.20pm, 6.40pm  
La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 1.40pm, 4pm,  
6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm,  
9.10pm  
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0870-902 0403) @ Barbican  
The Big Country Wed 5.30pm  
Ronin 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
My Name is Joe 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3333) @ Clapham  
Common Elizabeth 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm  
The Wedding Singer 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 4pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 7720) @ Green Park  
Left Luggage 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MEINEMA (0171-369 7721) @ Hyde Park Corner/Leicester Square  
La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle  
Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm  
Blade 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm  
Ronin 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-988990) @ Leicester Square  
Antz 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm  
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-988990) @ Leicester Square  
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EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-988990) @ Leicester Square  
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EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-988990) @ Leicester Square  
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The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

### ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross/Nightmare in a Damaged Brain  
Spm Nekromantik 6.30pm  
House by the Cemetery 7pm  
Schramm 8.30pm  
Zombie Holocaust 5pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly  
Circus/Leicester Square Buffalo 6pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm  
Insomnia 2pm, 4.15pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate  
Elizabeth 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-050007) @ Camden Town  
Antz 1.40pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm  
Blade 12noon, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm  
Rear Window 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0870-050007) @ Piccadilly  
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) @ High Street  
Kensington Antz 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm  
Blade 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm  
Rear Window 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) @ Marble Arch  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON NOTTING HILL (0870-050007) @ Notting Hill Gate  
Elizabeth 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-050007) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

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